ABBREVIATIONS USED IN THIS JOURNAL

AE – – – Ancient Egypt.
ASN – – – Archaeological Survey of Nubia.
BIFAO – – Bulletin de l’Institut Français d’Archéologie Orientale.
BMFAB – – Bulletin of the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston.
CdE – – – Chronique d’Egypte.
HAS – – – Harvard African Studies.
ILN – – – Illustrated London News.
Inscr. – – – Griffith: Meroitic Inscription.
JEA – – – Journal of Egyptian Archaeology.
LAAA – – – Liverpool Annals of Archaeology and Anthropology.
LD – – – Lepsius: Denkmäler aus Ägypten und Äthiopien.
Mer. – – – Garstang: Meroe the City of the Ethiopians.
OIP – – – Oriental Institute of Chicago Publications.
PM – – – Porter and Moss: Topographical Bibliography of Ancient Egyptian Hieroglyphic Texts, Reliefs, and Paintings.
PN – – – Ranke: Die Ägyptischen Personennamen.
RA – – – Revue Archéologique.
RCK – – – Royal Cemeteries of Kush.
RdEg – – – Revue d’Egyptologie.
RT – – – Recueil de Travaux.
SNR – – – Sudan Notes and Records.
TSBA – – – Transactions of the Society of Biblical Archaeology.
Urk – – – Urkunden des Ägyptischen Altertums.
WZKM – – – Wiener Zeitschrift für die Kunde des Morgenlandes.
ZAS – – – Zeitschrift für Ägyptische Sprache.

The Editor is not responsible for the opinions expressed by contributors.
CONTENTS

EDITORIAL NOTES

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

   Introduction
   The Survey from Faras to Gezira Dabarosa.  By G. J. Verwers
   Excavations and Survey in Faras, Argin and Gezira Dabarosa.  By Hans-Ake Nordström, with a Note on the Cattle Skulls by H. T. B. Hall
   Pottery Kiln Excavations.  By William Y. Adams

PRELIMINARY REPORT OF THE SCANDINAVIAN JOINT EXPEDITION

   By T. Säve-Söderbergh

EGYPT EXPLORATION SOCIETY: A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT BUCHEN, 1960-1

   By W. B. Emery

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT AKSHA BY THE FRANCO-ARGENTINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION

   By Jean Vercoutter, with Notes relating to Inscriptions found at Aksha, by A. Rosenvasser

THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

   By C. de Wit and P. Mertens

THE BELGIAN PHOTOGRAMMETRIC MISSION TO THE TEMPLE OF BUCHEN

   By A. Bellens and P. Vermeir

SOLEB, CAMPAGNA 1960-1 (with English Summary).

   By Michela Schiff Giorgini

PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT MUSAWWARAT

   By Fritz Hintze

DEUX MONUMENTS AU NOM DE LA REINE KEÑSA (with English Summary)

   By Jean Leclant

SPANISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL MISSION TO ARGIN—FIRST PRELIMINARY REPORT (with Spanish Summary)

   By R. Blanco y Caro and F. Presedo Velo

POLISH EXCAVATIONS AT FARAS, 1961

   By Kazimierz Michalowski

AN INTRODUCTORY CLASSIFICATION OF CHRISTIAN NUBIAN POTTERY

   By William Y. Adams

SOME ZANDE TEXTS—PART I

   By E. E. Evans-Pritchard

LOMA: AN ASPECT OF THE SUPERNATURAL AMONG THE BONGO

   By A. and W. Kronenberg

NOTES

   Rock Engravings at Sabu.  By Neville Chittick
   Further Remarks on the Gebelein Stelae.  By Henry G. Fischer
   The Dionysus from Meroe.  By François Chamoux
   The Thumb-ring: a Modern Parallel to a Meroitic Object.  By A. Kronenberg
   A Japanese Cuirass from the Sudan.  By C. Halls

REVIEWS

   Nigerian Perspectives.  By Thomas Hodgkin
   Divinity and Experience.  The Religion of the Dinka.  By Godfrey Lienhardt

CORRESPONDENCE

ERRATUM
# LIST OF PLATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PLATE</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Facing Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>I</td>
<td>Faras West – Meroitic Remains, and Serra – X-Group Cemetery</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>II</td>
<td>Faras West – Meroitic Basins and Gutter</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>III</td>
<td>Rock Drawings at J. Sheikh Yacub</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IV</td>
<td>Serra West – C-Group and X-Group Graves</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>V</td>
<td>Meroitic and X-Group Pottery</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VI</td>
<td>Scarabs and Meroitic Pottery</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VII</td>
<td>Gezira Dabarosa – Mudbrick Church</td>
<td>32</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VIII</td>
<td>Faras – Finds from C-Group Graves</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IX</td>
<td>Argin – New Kingdom Grave and Pottery</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X</td>
<td>Gezira Dabarosa – A-Group and C-Group Graves</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XI</td>
<td>Gezira Dabarosa – A-Group Pottery</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XII</td>
<td>Gezira Dabarosa – C-Group Pottery and A-Group Jewellery</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIII</td>
<td>Finds from Gezira Dabarosa</td>
<td>48</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIV</td>
<td>Skull No. 1</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XV</td>
<td>Skull No. 2</td>
<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVI</td>
<td>Pottery Kilns at Argin and Debeira East</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVII</td>
<td>Pottery Kilns at Serra West and Mugufil</td>
<td>64</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XVIII</td>
<td>Abka – Site No. 157</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XIX</td>
<td>Abka – Rock Drawings at Site No. 157</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XX</td>
<td>Rock Inscriptions at Site Nos. 139 and 76</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXI</td>
<td>Finds from Site Nos. 95/2 and 65</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXII</td>
<td>Photographic Map of Site No. 97 – C-Group</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIII</td>
<td>Seals and Scarabs</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIV</td>
<td>C-Group Pottery</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXV</td>
<td>Photographic Map of Site No. 35 – C-Group</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXVI</td>
<td>C-Group Cemetery No. 35 and Finds</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXVII</td>
<td>Finds from New Kingdom and X-Group Graves</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXVIII</td>
<td>Finds of X-Group and Roman Date</td>
<td>88</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXIX</td>
<td>Buhen – The Town and the Southern Defences</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXX</td>
<td>Buhen – The Northern Defences</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXI</td>
<td>Buhen – The Northern Defences</td>
<td>106</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXII</td>
<td>Aksha – Forecourt and Vestibule of the Temple</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXIII</td>
<td>Aksha – Forecourt</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATE</td>
<td>Title</td>
<td>facing page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>--------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXIV</td>
<td>Aksha – Reliefs</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXV</td>
<td>Aksha – Inscriptions</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXVI</td>
<td>Bedier – The Rock Tomb</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXVII</td>
<td>Finds from the Rock Tomb and Meroitic Graves</td>
<td>112</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXVIII</td>
<td>Kumma – Court E-F, East Wall</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XXXIX</td>
<td>Kumma – Court E-F, North and West Walls</td>
<td>128</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XL</td>
<td>Buhen – The Temple of Hatshepsut, Column no. 086</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLI</td>
<td>Buhen – The Temple of Hatshepsut, Sanctuary no. 058</td>
<td>150</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLII</td>
<td>Soleb – Re-utilized blocks from Sector V</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLIII</td>
<td>Soleb – Sector IV</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLIV</td>
<td>Soleb – The Temple, Sector IV</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLV</td>
<td>Soleb – Sarcophagi</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLVI</td>
<td>Soleb – Scarabs</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLVII</td>
<td>Finds from Soleb</td>
<td>160</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLVIII</td>
<td>Musawwarat es Sufra – The Lion Temple</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>XLIX</td>
<td>The Lion Temple – Pylon and South-west Wall</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>L</td>
<td>The Lion Temple – South-west and North-east Walls</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LI</td>
<td>The Lion Temple – Pylon and Throne</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LII</td>
<td>Reliefs from the South-west and North-west Walls</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIII</td>
<td>The Gods Shuwmkr and Arensnuphis</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIV</td>
<td>King Arnekhamani</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LV</td>
<td>Votive Offerings in front of the Entrance</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVI</td>
<td>Representations of Cattle</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVII</td>
<td>Sculpture [II C/23 and II C/28]</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LVIII</td>
<td>Musawwarat es Sufra – Buildings II C-II and C-III</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LIX</td>
<td>Lion Temple – Enclosing Wall, and Temple II A</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LX</td>
<td>Temple II A</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXI</td>
<td>Building II A-1 and Ceramics from Temple II D</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXII</td>
<td>Temple II D and Bronze Statue found therein</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXIII</td>
<td>Finds from Temple II D</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXIV</td>
<td>Temple III A and Tomb S 1</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXV</td>
<td>Feeder System Trench and Part of Workshop</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXVI</td>
<td>Workshop and Building I B</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXVII</td>
<td>Building I B, Musawwarat es Sufra</td>
<td>184</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXVIII</td>
<td>Schist statuette (Louvre E 3915)</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXIX</td>
<td>Schist statuette (Louvre E 3915)</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXX</td>
<td>Kohl Pot of Queen Ke'nsa</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PLATE</td>
<td>Description</td>
<td>Facing Page</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-------</td>
<td>-----------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXI</td>
<td>Metropolitan Museum of Art Nos. 23.6.3, 15.3.890 and 22.1.1153</td>
<td>208</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXII</td>
<td>Excavations at Argin</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXIII</td>
<td>Argin – Wall Separating Pit from Chamber</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXIV</td>
<td>Faras – New Kingdom and Meroitic Blocks</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXV</td>
<td>Faras – The Archangel Michael</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXVI</td>
<td>Faras – The Madonna and Child</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXVII</td>
<td>Stelae of Bishop Joannes and Bishop Petros</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXVIII</td>
<td>Stelae of Bishop Iesous and Bishop Georgios</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXIX</td>
<td>Faras – The Sandstone Wall and the Window</td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXX</td>
<td>Rock Engravings at Sabu</td>
<td>328</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXXI</td>
<td>Ancient Thumb-Rings</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXXII</td>
<td>Longarim Ivory Thumb-Rings</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXXIII</td>
<td>Meroitic Skeleton Hand and Longarim Dance</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXXIV</td>
<td>Age-Grade Dance of Longarim</td>
<td>336</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LXXXV</td>
<td>A Japanese Cuirass from the Sudan</td>
<td>338</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Editorial Notes

I am happy to report that the salvage work in Sudanese Nubia continues to go well. Preliminary reports for the 1960/61 season will be found in this volume and I give here only the briefest summary of what has subsequently been achieved in Sudanese Nubia. We have had a most active season which has just finished with excellent results, and definite progress has been made in all aspects of the Campaign.

At the time of writing, the Antiquities Service Survey Party on the West Bank have reached Gemai West at the same time as the Scandinavian Joint Expedition have reached virtually a parallel point on the East Bank, and hence the archaeological survey for the first stage of inundation is now more or less complete, except for a few pockets which have already been tested and which will be completely cleared next season. The Columbia University Prehistoric Survey Party have likewise almost finished surveying the area within their concession, between Gemai in the north and the Dal Cataract in the south, while the German Academy of Sciences Expedition, starting their Epigraphic Survey, have completely finished copying all the rock inscriptions at Semna and Kumna.

In the field of excavation, excellent progress has also been made in the area which is immediately menaced, thanks to the gratifying response of archaeological institutions from all over the globe. The seven expeditions which have been engaged in excavations, namely the Polish Centre of Mediterranean Archaeology, the Franco-Argentine Mission, the University of Ghana, the Spanish Committee for Co-operation with Unesco, the Egypt Exploration Society, the Oriental Institute of Chicago, and the Scandinavian Joint Expedition, have done a considerable amount of digging in their respective sites, but none of them has completely finished except for the Franco-Argentine Mission who will turn their attention to Mirgissa next season. The reason why the other expeditions who started early have not yet finished, is that their sites have turned out to be much more extensive than had been expected. For instance Buhen, where work started five years ago, was scheduled to be finished this season, and the
KUSH

Egypt Exploration Society would then have started the site of Meinarti, but they have now found a site north of the Middle Kingdom fortifications the limits of which are not yet known, and so the completion date cannot be determined. Generally speaking, however, it is hoped that the end of next season will see the majority of the sites where work is now in progress either completely or very nearly finished.

The season, however, did not pass without important discoveries. The Polish Expedition at Faras, whose report for last season appears below, pp. 220–44, had the good fortune to continue to find important historical data and bring to light frescoes of great artistic value which rank among the best early Christian paintings so far known. In the church, the interior of which seems to be covered all over with paintings, they have discovered a most important specimen of Byzantine art representing the Archangel Michael in a white robe, wearing a crown, and protecting with his wings and staff the three young Hebrews in the furnace. This fresco, which is in a very good state of preservation, represents an excellent composition in colours and is thought to date to the end of the 10th century. It will certainly be a most welcome and invaluable addition to the National Collection in the new Sudan Museum.

The Egypt Exploration Society turned their attention this season to a site north of the Middle Kingdom fortress and midway between it and the Kenous village, stretching along the river bank for a distance of more than 300m. Big defence walls of rough stone 2m. wide with a stone-lined ditch on the river side were revealed to enclose a town of considerable size, the extent of which is not yet known. The discovery of this site will certainly cause the early chapters of the history of this country to be re-written as it was the general conception that the Egyptian occupation of the area began during the Middle Kingdom when the numerous fortifications in the region were built (c. 2000 B.C.), but now a number of types of pottery (including the type known as the Meydoum bowl) have been found here which definitely date back to the 18th and 19th Dynasties and mixed with them were fragments of unmistakable Nubian B-Group pottery, which confirm this dating. An ostrakon inscribed with the cartouche of Kakai, the third king of the 17th Dynasty, has also been found as well as clay jar sealings bearing the names of kings of the 18th and 19th Dynasties. Hence it is obvious that the occupation of this area goes back at least as early as the 17th Dynasty.

The next season will see all the above-mentioned expeditions back at work in Nubia, in addition to two American institutions, the University of California, which has been granted a licence to excavate the two Middle Kingdom sites of Debenarti and Askut, and Brown University, which will study and make facsimiles of the inscriptions at the two temples of Semna and Kumna under the leadership of Dr Caminos, who has already dealt in the same way with the temple at Buhen for the Egypt Exploration Society. Other American institutions are also contemplating coming to work in the Sudan next season.
EDITORIAL NOTES

The Belgian Government has again, through the good offices of Professor Gilbert, kindly sent us two able photogrammetrists who have just finished photographing the two temples of Semna and Kumna in addition to the Middle Kingdom fortifications of Buhen, and we have been promised that they will return next winter to photograph Aksha and help in making maquettes of the mud-brick monuments which cannot be removed, e.g. Middle Kingdom fortification and Christian churches.

The removal of temples remains the only aspect of the campaign for which we have had no definite offers, although there have been tentative offers from certain governments, which we hope will materialize in the very near future as time has become rather pressing.

* * *

I am pleased to find that KUSH is now so well established that interesting and valuable material is pouring in to such an extent that I am finding it difficult to include all the contributions offered to us in spite of the fact that the journal has greatly increased in size. For this reason, I find that I have to give priority to material concerned with the Nubian Campaign so that readers may be brought up to date and the reports follow consecutively, but these should be kept as short as possible so as to enable me to include other contributions as well. The following may serve as a guide for contributors of preliminary reports for publication in this journal:

(a) Such reports should be written in English, but if this proves to be impossible an English summary should be provided.

(b) They should be as short as possible giving only the most important news from the dig so as to keep other scholars and those interested informed without detracting from the final publication.

(c) Figures should be kept to a minimum and restricted to those which are necessary for a clear understanding of the text.

(d) Plates should not exceed four full pages.

(e) MSS and supporting illustrative material should reach the Editor not later than 31 August following the end of the field season to which they refer.

* * *

I am also happy to report that we have been able to reprint the Antiquities Service Occasional Paper No. 2, Castles and Churches in the Middle Nile Region by O. G. S. Crawford, and Occasional Paper No. 3, Excavations at Soba by P. L. Shinnie.

THABIT HASSAN THABIT

April, 1962
The Archaeological Survey on the West Bank of the Nile: Second Season, 1960-1

INTRODUCTION

At the beginning of 1960, the Sudan Antiquities Service inaugurated an intensive archaeological survey along the west bank of the Nile in the Wadi Halfa region as a part of its contribution to the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia. The first season's work, which was confined to the village of Faras West, has been reported in a previous number of Kush.¹

The second field campaign on the west bank began in mid-October 1960 and continued without appreciable interruption until the end of April 1961. The work was once again in the charge of William Y. Adams, Hans-Ake Nordström, and G. Jan Verwers: the same archaeological team which concluded the previous season's work. All three members were provided to the Sudan through the generosity of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (Unesco). Field equipment, transportation, technical assistance, and labour were, as before, furnished entirely by the Sudan Antiquities Service. A crew of about thirty local labourers and nine Quftis, led by Reis Ibrahim Mubarak, assisted the survey during most of the season.

Mr Verwers was generally in charge of field operations until after the end of 1960, while Mr Nordström was absent on sick leave. After the latter's return early in 1961 he took over the direction of the field parties, leaving Mr Verwers free to complete a report on his work before leaving the Sudan. He departed to resume his studies in Holland at the end of April 1961, after a year's service during which his contribution to the survey of the west bank was invaluable. Throughout most of the campaign Dr Adams was detained in Wadi Halfa by administrative and documentary duties, and he was only able to take the field for a few special excavations of brief duration. In the three papers that follow, each of the Unesco archaeologists reports upon those investigations which were under his personal direction.²

¹ Kush IX (1961), pp. 7-43.
² Mr Nordström’s report includes, in addition, the results of certain investigations which were completed too late for inclusion in the initial reports (Kush IX, pp. 7-43). For this reason, and because the progress of the survey parties was not always in a direct line, the areas investigated by Messrs Nordström and Verwers and described in their respective reports overlap to a considerable extent.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

The second season’s survey commenced just south of the village of Faras West, at the point where work had been suspended five months previously. As the campaign progressed the survey parties moved continually southward until by the end of April they had reached a point directly opposite Wadi Halfa, and some 32 km. south of Faras. Within the area covered the recording and mapping of site locations is considered to be substantially complete.

The total number of sites\(^3\) investigated during the second campaign was 115, of which 103 had not been previously recorded. Remains investigated included 80 cemeteries, 15 single or multiple habitation structures, 11 structures of other types, 12 habitation or refuse areas without structural remains, and 2 rock inscription sites. (The seeming discrepancy between these figures and the preceding total results from the fact that a few sites fall into more than one category.) Some excavation was undertaken at the great majority of sites: enough, in most cases, to establish the age, identity, and condition of the remains present. This might involve the excavation of from three to twenty graves in a cemetery, and one or more rooms in a house, depending on the conditions encountered. More extensive investigation has, with a few exceptions, been reserved for a later phase of the survey. Only a few sites which yielded special information have been thoroughly excavated up to the present time.

At this writing the initial objective of the Sudan Antiquities Service survey—to complete the exploration and mapping of all archaeological remains on the west bank of the Nile between the Egyptian frontier and Gemai\(^4\)—is approximately half way to attainment. Some 32 km. have been surveyed, and another 30 km., as well as scores of islands in the Second Cataract, remain to be examined.\(^5\) At the same time the numerous foreign archaeological missions working in Sudanese Nubia have contributed much additional information, and have added many more sites to the roster.\(^6\) The total number of known archaeological sites on both banks of the Nile north of Gemai now stands at 304, including all those known before 1960 and those reported by the various foreign expeditions as well

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\(^3\) The survey crew defines as a site any remains or evidence *in situ* sufficient to indicate human occupation or deliberate activity of a definable nature at that spot. Random surface finds of refuse or redeposited material are not considered to be sites and are not given numbers.

\(^4\) This village, which is situated just above the head of the Second Cataract, was designated as the limit of the initial survey because it marks also the limit of the area most immediately threatened with inundation by the Aswan High Dam.

\(^5\) A considerable portion of the unsurveyed area is covered by excavation concessions which have been granted to foreign archaeological missions, and will therefore not be investigated by the Sudan Antiquities Service survey.

\(^6\) Sites reported by other expeditions are given numbers and incorporated into the Antiquities Service site file whenever they meet the criteria outlined in note 3, above. For an explanation of the system of site designation used in the survey of Nubia see *Kush* IX, p. 8.
as those investigated by the West Bank Survey. A breakdown of all the known sites by age and type is given in Table I.\(^7\)

**The Survey to date**

At this halt-way point in the exploration of the west bank, it may be well to review briefly the accomplishments of the survey to date, and to assess the still formidable tasks which remain.

**TABLE I**

**DISTRIBUTION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES NORTH OF GEMAI BY AGE AND TYPE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Cemeteries</th>
<th>Habitation Structures</th>
<th>Other Structures</th>
<th>Refuse Areas, etc.</th>
<th>Rock Drawings</th>
<th>Miscellaneous</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
<th>1st Season</th>
<th>2nd Season</th>
<th>TOTALS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prehistoric</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A-Group</td>
<td>21</td>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>17</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>C-Group</td>
<td>32</td>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>44</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pharaonic</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>52</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Napatan-Meroitic</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>24</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>X-Group</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>34</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Christian</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2</td>
<td></td>
<td>91</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Uncertain</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td>48</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTALS</strong></td>
<td>175</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>361</td>
<td>25</td>
<td>142</td>
<td>167</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Prehistoric Periods.** The investigation of prehistoric remains has been a negligible feature of the Sudan Antiquities Service Survey to date. Random surface finds of stone implements have been made at numerous points upon the gravel terraces which flank the Nile, but in only two cases has the concentration been sufficient to warrant designation as a site. No systematic effort has been made to collect or study the lithic material. The arrival of two specialized expeditions during the 1961-2 season, one to investigate prehistoric sites exclusively and one to record rock pictures, should in time more than compensate for the deficiencies of the West Bank Survey in this field.

\(^7\) The rather considerable discrepancies between the total numbers of sites mentioned in the foregoing text and the figures enumerated in Table I result from the fact that many sites involve remains of more than one type, and some also belong to more than one culture period. All such sites have been entered under each appropriate category in Table I.
A-Group. Seventeen A-Group sites were investigated during the first two seasons, of which fourteen were cemeteries. The remaining three were concentrations of sherds and other habitation refuse without accompanying structural remains. The failure to discover any dwellings of the protohistoric people, who clearly lived in considerable numbers all along the west bank of the Nile, has been one of the disappointments of the survey to date.

About 100 A-Group graves have been excavated, of which all but a handful had been plundered. Finds have been largely restricted to pottery and a few objects of ground stone. This material conforms closely to previously known A-Group finds of the Protodynastic and Early Dynastic periods, and has as yet added little to our knowledge of the people and their culture. Perhaps the most interesting discoveries have been a number of specimens of fine red-on-orange painted pottery\(^8\) from several different cemeteries.

C-Group. Material of this period is closely parallel to that of the A-Group both in character and distribution, a circumstance which points to the obvious cultural affinity of the two. They are, in fact, almost certainly remains of the same population at different stages of culture growth, and perhaps augmented by immigration in the case of the C-Group.\(^9\) The close proximity of A-Group and C-Group cemeteries, and the mixture of the two types of sherds in habitation areas, are observed repeatedly.

C-Group remains investigated to date include twenty-one cemeteries, eight habitation or refuse areas, and a cache site. As in the case of the A-Group, no identifiable structural remains have been encountered, although rude stone huts are well known from other areas.\(^10\) C-Group settlement remains in the Halfa region have so far been limited to concentrations of charcoal, ash beds, and scatterings of sherds and stone chips.

About 150 C-Group graves have been excavated. Both the grave types and the material recovered show considerable diversity, indicating differences in time and also, perhaps, regional variation. Brick-lined and vaulted graves from the end of the C-Group period\(^11\) have been encountered at only one site. Most graves have conventional circular superstructures of dry masonry, often with offerings of pottery and animal sacrifices placed against the outside.

Collections from the C-Group graves have, as usual, included a few Egyptian objects from the Middle Kingdom and the Second Intermediate period. Even allowing for plundering, the quantity of this material is not sufficient to indicate

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\(^8\) See Firth, \textit{ASN}, 1908–9, i, p. 6 and ii, pl. 46, a and b; Firth, \textit{ASN}, 1909–10, p. 9 and pl. 28, d and Firth, \textit{ASN}, 1910–11, pl. 19, a–d.


KUSH

an extensive trade or very close economic relations between the C-Group people and the Egyptian garrisons in the neighbourhood.

Pharaonic. Architectural remains of the Middle and New Kingdoms in Nubia are generally so massive that their excavation is beyond the present resources of the West Bank Survey. Such sites have been reserved whenever possible for foreign archaeological missions, and the excavation of several of them is currently under way. 12 Except for a couple of inconclusive exploratory excavations of structural remains at Faras and Sheikh Oweis el Guruny, the experience of the expedition with Pharaonic remains has been confined to cemeteries and rock drawings.

Eighteen Pharaonic cemetry sites were investigated during the first two seasons. About sixty graves were excavated in all, every one of which had been thoroughly plundered. The great majority were crude, shallow pits dug from exposed sandstone ledges and lined with loose blocks of stone. They are believed to date from Ramesside times, although they contained no diagnostic material. Vertical shaft graves dating more probably from the eighteenth or early sixteenth Dynasty were encountered at three sites. Elaborate horizontal rock tombs were observed at Sheikh Oweis el Guruny, but were not excavated.

Ancient and modern plunderers have left relatively little material for analysis in the tombs of the Pharaonic periods. A few scarabs and a large number of beads, all of well known and conventional types, have been the principal finds.

Rock pictures were recorded at two points in the vicinity of a desert jebel west of Serra. The considerable diversity of sizes and styles suggests origin at more than one period, but among the figures are three boat representations that are distinctly Egyptian. 13 No accompanying inscriptions were found.

Napatan-Meroitic. Remains which are unmistakably Napatan as distinguished from Meroitic are extremely scarce in the Halfa region. 14 None were encountered by the survey of the west bank during the first two seasons. Meroitic remains are themselves not conspicuously numerous. Those investigated include ten cemeteries, two settlement sites, a 'bath house' (?), 15 and a pottery kiln.

About thirty Meroitic graves have been excavated. They are most commonly vertical shafts with side chambers, or, less commonly, with end chambers. Most Meroitic graves have been thoroughly rifled in the past, and have yielded little.

The Meroitic is the earliest period from which ordinary domestic architectural remains have been found by the West Bank Survey. These are entirely

13 See Dunbar, The Rock Pictures of Lower Nubia, figs. 36–51.
15 Author's interpretation; cf. pp. 19–21 below.
of unfired mud brick, and include a fairly extensive town site at Argin which has not yet been systematically explored. Specialized structures of interest are the baths (?) at Faras and the kiln at Argin, both described in the papers that follow.

**X-Group.** Remains of the X-Group period are prevalent nearly everywhere in the Halfa region except at Faras, a curious anomaly in view of the concentration of remains of earlier and later periods there. X-Group remains investigated by the West Bank Survey, all during the second season, include fourteen cemeteries, five settlements, and two kiln sites.

About 120 X-Group graves have been excavated. As elsewhere, the grave chambers show considerable variability. Narrow vertical shafts with a side niche at the bottom are most common, but large barrel vaulted chambers and plain rectangular shafts have also been encountered. Most X-Group graves have the familiar large earthen tumulus and surrounding borrow pit, but a few are surmounted by a heap of stones after the fashion of Christian graves. Finds have consisted chiefly of large quantities of the distinctive X-Group redware pottery, notably narrow-necked jars and a variety of goblets and other small stemmed vessels.

The X-Group settlements which have been encountered were of considerable size, consisting of clusters of small rectangular chambers of mud brick with occasional courses of rude stone masonry. One village was apparently surrounded by a heavy stone wall. All of the settlements continued to be inhabited into Christian times. The pottery kilns, found at two sites, were identical in design with those found in much later Christian times.

**Christian.** Christian remains account for about one-quarter of all known archaeological sites in the Halfa region. During its first two seasons the Sudan Antiquities Service survey investigated eighteen cemeteries, fourteen settlement areas with and without house remains, four churches and associated structures, three pottery kiln sites, two refuse mounds, and one rock picture site of this period—a total of forty-two Christian sites.

Comparatively little attention has been paid to Christian cemeteries, and only about thirty graves have been excavated in all. As usual, the grave types vary greatly, and include plain rectangular shafts with side chambers, shafts with one or two end chambers, and brick vaults. A fair number of shaft graves are cut from rock in the Faras region. The number of interments in a single grave has varied from one to eighteen. Superstructures are commonly heaps of stones, but occasionally vaulted brick chapels.

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16 See Reisner, *ASN*, 1907–8, i, p. 345.
18 See *KUSH* IX, pp. 33–7 and FIG. 3.
20 Griffith, *LAAA*, xiv, p. 68.
KUSH

Christian habitation sites, like those of the preceding X-Group period, are tight clusters of rectangular mud brick chambers, and must in many cases represent multi-family dwelling units. This concentrated settlement pattern is even more marked in the rocky zone above the Second Cataract, where it stands in marked contrast to the scattered habitation of today. It seems to point to a closely integrated community life, perhaps centred upon a church or churches.

Of the church sites investigated by the survey, three had not been previously recorded. On an island in the Second Cataract, a site locally known as Qasr Iko comprises a considerable Christian settlement and two small cupola-type churches in a good state of preservation, one containing important remnants of frescoes.

Pottery kilns, such as those excavated at Faras during the first season, have proved to be a rather common feature of the larger Christian settlements. Two additional Christian kiln sites were excavated during the second season, and several others have been noted, but so far not investigated, in the region around the Second Cataract.

Problematical sites. The West Bank Survey encountered twenty-one sites whose age and cultural affinity could not be determined. Fifteen of these were cemeteries which had either been totally plundered or for other reasons contained no datable material. There were in addition four denuded habitation sites, a quarry, and a rock-cut water basin.

Documentary work. In addition to archaeological work in the field, a few other accomplishments of the Sudan Antiquities Service survey during its first two years may be mentioned. The aerial survey of the entire area of the Sudan scheduled for inundation by the Aswan High Dam has been completed, and a master aerial mosaic prepared upon which site locations are plotted. From the aerial photographs a series of ten contour maps at a scale of 1 : 25,000, covering the area from the Second Cataract to the Dal Cataract, has been prepared and published. These maps, together with the existing contour maps of the region from Gemai northward, now provide uniform topographic coverage of the whole of Sudanese Nubia at a scale of 1 : 25,000, with a contour interval of 10 metres.

In the laboratory, the study of collections proceeds as best it can in the relatively short intervals (May–October) between field campaigns. The most extensive undertaking to date has been a detailed typological and chronological analysis of X-Group and Christian pottery, and first results of which are reported in later pages of this volume. A similar analysis of C-Group, and possibly also of A-Group, pottery will be attempted as more material comes to hand.

Finally, the Antiquities Service has equipped and maintained in Wadi Halfa a central documentary office where the results not only of its own surveys, but

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21 Kush ix, pp. 30–43.  
22 Kush ix, pp. 11–14.  
23 pp. 245–88 below.
also of those of the various foreign archaeological missions, are tabulated and filed. The records kept include cards and descriptive sheets for each site, photographs, a master site survey map, the complete aerial mosaic of Sudanese Nubia, and individual unmounted aerial photos upon which locations of all sites are plotted. This material is freely accessible for reference to all scientific expeditions working in Sudanese Nubia.

The task remaining

Obviously, the most immediate goal of the Antiquities Service survey must be to complete the exploration of the west bank of the Nile as far south as Gemai. The area to be examined is, when foreign concessions are excluded, considerably smaller than that which has already been surveyed. However, it includes scores of islands in the Second Cataract which present special logistic problems, and which are also known to harbour abundant archaeological remains.

At least as important as the completion of the survey is the further investigation of many of the sites which have already been recorded. In its initial phase the survey has been deliberately confined to brief exploratory excavations, in order to complete an inventory of the material present before selecting sites for intensive study. A great many sites—perhaps even a large majority—will clearly never warrant any further attention than they have already received. While some additional finds might be expected from nearly all of them, they are not likely to be sufficiently informative or valuable to justify a further expenditure of time. On the other hand there are certain remains whose intensive study is of primary importance. These are, first and foremost, the larger habitation sites and especially those which show some promise of stratification.

The principal deficiency of the West Bank Survey to date, and of most of its predecessors, has been the disproportionate allocation of time and effort to the investigation of cemeteries. They are, of course, generally better preserved than habitation remains, and they are also often easier to find and to dig, since they are less commonly overburdened with modern structures. It must be admitted also that they hold out the most immediate promise of material reward. Nevertheless, there can be no scientific justification for our continuing to investigate in minute detail the behaviour of the ancient Nubians toward their dead when we know so little of their behaviour towards the living. Some effort will have to be made to balance the picture by the excavation of non-mortuary sites.

By and large, to dig graves is no more than to repeat the work which has been done again and again during the last half century. It reinforces the known without appreciably diminishing the unknown. Yet profound gaps remain in the picture of Nubian and pre-Nubian culture history—particularly in regard to the periods of transition between one cultural ‘peak’ and the next. Our best

\[^{24}\text{See note 4, above.}\]
chance of learning something of these historical processes lies in the investigation of long-inhabited dwelling sites, where transition is spelled out by superposition.

From the beginning, the essential justification for undertaking a sondage expedition in advance of any major excavation has been the need to 'define the universe before sampling it,' to use the jargon of social science. Since no single expedition could possibly excavate in extenso all of the archaeological remains in so large an area, it is essential to have a full inventory of them in order to have a scientific basis for selection. By the completion of the survey, the total number of recorded sites on the west bank may be expected to exceed 300, and from this 'universe' it will be vitally necessary to select a small group for intensive investigation. If the survey is to make any lasting contribution to the study of history, the sites thus selected must be those which promise to throw the most light into the darkest corners of Nubia's past.

W.Y.A.
CONTINUING the Archaeological Survey of Sudanese Nubia, which began early in 1960, the Sudan Antiquities Service opened the 1960-1 season by finishing its investigations in the Faras region. Thereafter the survey moved continually southwards until by the end of January 1961, when the writer terminated his fieldwork, an area of about 30 km. had been covered, reaching from the Egyptian border to the village of Gezira Dabarosa, opposite Wadi Halfa. The survey was carried out first from the field headquarters in Faras, and after 1 January 1961 from Wadi Halfa. Reis Ibrahim Mubarak and eight Quftis assisted by an average of thirty Sudanese labourers formed an excellent excavation team. In documentation and laboratory work, valuable help was given by the draughtsman Abdel Rahman Abdel Rahim and the photographer Arbab Hassan Hafiz.

The following notes are to be considered as a partial inventory of the sites found during the first half of the season. Of the material collected, only a few specimens can be mentioned. The reported area is divided into the six villages: Faras West, Aksha, Serra West, Debeira West, Argin and Gezira Dabarosa. Under these headings the sites will follow in chronological order. The site number, in accordance with the system in use in this survey of Nubia¹ will be given between brackets.

**Faras**

During the season 1959-60,² in the range of dunes 1 km. west of the village, constructions of mud brick, fired brick and stone (24–E–31)³ were found. This year a preliminary plan was drawn (FIG. 1). A small curved line seen on an aerial photograph of the site area first invited investigation. It proved to be a gutter lined with standing stone slabs. Its western part was very much eroded, while the more easterly parts were covered with a layer of mud and sand. The gutter had a gradient of 50 cm. from east to west.

Excavation of this area revealed the foundations of two buildings south of the gutter (PLATE 1, a). In the first, House I, the walls had a stone footing of 40 cm.; the rest was built of mud bricks. Only the lowest 60 cm. of the wall remained standing. The site appears to be of Meroitic age.

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¹ Kush IX, p. 8.
² Ibid., p. 10.
³ For the location of this site, see Kush IX, map facing p. 8.
Fig. 1. PLAN OF THE MEROITIC HOUSES BASINS AND GUTTER AT PARAS WEST

KUSH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

House II, east of I, was built of mud bricks only. As in House I, a wall divided the building into a northern and a southern room. In the latter, remains of human skeletons were found. Only in three cases were enough bones in situ to show the original position: lying on their backs. The skulls, to the west, rested on stones. Also worthy of note were the sections of ceramic pipe found on the floor of this room. They had an average diameter of 20 cm., were made of thick reddish corrugated ware, and each of them had one or two holes near the end. North of the gutter a few other house foundations were noted but not investigated.

The principal feature of the site was a small construction of fired bricks, also situated north of the gutter. Excavation revealed a rectangular basin, its inside lined with opus signinum, connected through a hole in one side with an oval basin lined with the same material. Both were about 150 cm. long and 75 cm. wide, while their depths were respectively 25 and 45 cm. The basins were connected with the gutter through a sloping 'pipe', inside a housing of fired brick, extending downward from the oval basin to the bottom of the gutter, a difference in height of 50 cm. (Plate II and section on Fig. 1). Three small square structures, built of fired bricks and stones, stood against the basins. The removal of the surface sand, as well as mud, from the broken walls supplied us with sherds, which are of Meroitic origin. Some of the painted designs are shown in Plate VI, a. A few small bowls were also found.

The area south of Faras village showed evidence of habitation during X-Group and Christian times. Remains of mud brick houses (24-I-18) were found together with potsherds of the latter period.

A few graves of type 15 6 (24-I-26) were found 1 km. west of the river. They contained no datable material.

Aksha

Examination of the region around Aksha village, some 6 km. south of Faras, yielded poor results. Near the desert plateau, about 2 km. west of the village, a group of five small tumuli (24-I-21) was found. Excavation of two of them showed empty grave pits, lined with upright sandstone slabs. This type of grave is known from the New Kingdom and from the Meroitic period. Lack of material, however, makes dating impossible in this case.

In the centre of the village, a Meroitic cemetery (24-I-20) was spotted. The results of our investigation of two graves will be dealt with by the Franco-Argentine Expedition which continued the excavation.

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4 Sherds of red ware jars or bowls with stand rings and with sharp rim profiles, of wine jars of hard pink ware, and of small decorated and undecorated cups.
5 Cf. Griffith, LAAA, xi, types LXIIIc and e, LXIXb and c.
6 The type numbers refer to FIG. 2.
7 See pp. 109-17, below.
KUSH

Just north of Aksha a tomb (24-I-19) was found, cut vertically in the sandstone. The type (14) closely resembles that of the Faras Western Cemeteries and is probably also of Christian date. The three chambers contained skeletons which had been greatly disturbed by former visitors.

Serra West

About 10 km. south of the Sudanese border with Egypt lies the village of Serra West. Its houses are situated along the alluvial plain which extends inland for a considerable distance from the Nile. Nowadays only small plots near the river produce grain and vegetables, but in fairly recent years all the land here was under cultivation, as the irrigation systems, now abandoned, show. The following notes will indicate that in antiquity also this region attracted people at many periods.

Around Jebel Sheikh Yacub, 2 km. north-west of Serra, the oldest remains were found. Among the gravel which covers the plain surrounding this isolated sandstone outcrop several implements of probable Palaeolithic date were collected. The exploration of the many caves in the jebel was disappointing. Most were filled with wind-blown sand, without any signs of habitation. At two places (24-H-2, 24-H-3) rock drawings were found. Some of them, representing an elephant and cows (PLATE III, a), might be Neolithic while others (e.g. boats, PLATE III, b) indicate Egyptian influence.

One cave in the eastern slope of the jebel (24-H-4) contained a layer 70 cm. thick, consisting of fine sand mixed with charcoal, vegetable remains such as wood, bones (mostly animal, but some human), and stones. Pieces of mud with basket impressions, some pieces of worked wood, a rough pottery cup and potsherds were found. The latter, including sherds of red-brown, polished thick ware with a broad black band along the rim, and a few black polished sherds with pebble marks, point to the A-Group period. As the whole layer was redeposited by wind, no traces of the actual places of habitation remained.

The earliest evidence of occupation near the Nile bank at Serra consists of five small cemeteries, belonging to the A-Group period (24-I-23, 24-I-25, 24-M-4, 24-N-4, 24-N-5). Nowadays they lie at a distance of 1 km. to the west of the river, almost in a straight line from north-east to south-west. They occupy small elevations which are separated from one another by shallow wadis.

The graves, round, oval and rectangular (types 1, 2, 3, 4) are rather badly preserved, mainly due to natural processes such as erosion. In every cemetery between five and ten graves were investigated, of which only about three in each case contained any remains. For this reason, it is impossible to give average orientations either of the graves or of the interments. (Only five more or less undisturbed skeletons were found.)

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8 See KUSH IX, p. 29. (Christian graves dug in 1960 by Verwers.)
9 Formerly reported by Vercoutter (1955).
Among the grave offerings, pottery must be mentioned first. Bowls and dishes, red-brown polished inside and out, sometimes with some blackish spots, and without pebble marks, occurred most often. Sherds of reddish jars,\(^{10}\) and of thin 'variegated haematitic'\(^{11}\) vessels (black polished inside; line patterns of red haematite paint on an orange background outside),\(^{12}\) indicated Proto- and Early Dynastic age for these cemeteries, as does an alabaster vase found in the only grave of type 4.\(^{13}\) Besides pottery, a few quartz palettes,\(^{14}\) grinding stones and millers, and some bracelets and beads were recorded.

While working in the C-Group cemetery at Serra (see below), between two stone circles, we came across an oval A-Group grave containing, amongst other things, a jar of wheel-made pinkish ware, the outside covered with haematite;\(^{15}\) also a slate palette\(^{16}\) and a bronze awl.

Except for a thin layer of charcoal containing some sherds (site 24–M–5) very similar to those found at Faras last year,\(^{17}\) the presence of a population during the C-Group period is shown only by graves. Three of them were found isolated on the plain east of Serra (24–M–3, 24–M–15), while the others were concentrated in one cemetery (24–M–6).

This cemetery, occupying an area of 100×50 m. includes an estimated number of seventy graves. Its northern limit was clearly shown by the distribution of pieces of sandstone which are probably the remains of the destroyed superstructures of the graves, of which in this section almost nothing was left in place. The southern section was buried under a covering of sand. Here the stone structures were more often intact (Plate IV, a).\(^{18}\)

The graves, all oval in shape (types 5, 6), were, with some exceptions, orientated north-west/south-east and west/east. Most have probably had a circular stone superstructure, but some may have lacked this feature from the beginning. Robbing had frequently occurred, with the result that in the thirty graves excavated only nine skeletons were found in situ. Their position was always contracted on the right side, with the skull to the east. The same applies to the two burials which had been placed almost at the surface, after the pit graves had been closed. Remains of leather under some of the skeletons might be what was left of the hides on which the deceased were placed.

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\(^{10}\) Cf. Griffith, \textit{LAAA}, \textit{viii}, type 1, 2, 3.

\(^{11}\) Id. p. 8.

\(^{12}\) Firth, \textit{ASN} (1908–9), pl. 46a and b.

\(^{13}\) Steindorff, \textit{Amiba}, i, pl. 78, NN1 (Early Dynastic).

\(^{14}\) Reisner, \textit{ASN} (1907–8), pl. 63c (7, 8, 12, 13, 16).

\(^{15}\) For the shape, cf. Griffith, \textit{LAAA}, \textit{viii}, type 32.

\(^{16}\) Reisner, \textit{ASN} (1907–8), pl. 63a 5.

\(^{17}\) \textit{Kush} ix, p. 19 (24–E–2).

\(^{18}\) Instead of stone circles (round walls with courses of slabs) more often we found an irregular covering of stones over a heap of sand on top of the grave pit. This might well be the remains of a circle which had been destroyed by grave robbers and denudation.
Small beads, mostly of bone, but also of faience, carnelian and black stone, bracelet plates of mother-of-pearl, bone bracelets, some cowrie shells, two bone needles, part of a pottery doll and a bronze mirror were the total contents of the grave pits beside skeletal remains. An offering of ten bucraania was discovered to the east of one grave.

Pottery vessels had been placed outside the stone circles, often in the northeast quadrant. Among others, RP.BM bowls, mostly plain but some with incised decorations, bowls of black ware with incised decorations, and vessels of Qena ware occurred. There were pot stands of red and black ware. Among the potsherds those of RP.BM ware were most frequent, but most other C-Group wares also occurred. Striking is the general absence of Steindorff’s ‘Nubian’ ware, of which only two small sherds were found.

In the sand layer, near a grave in the southern part of the cemetery, the remains of two sandstone blocks were found. No drawings could be discovered on them.

The New Kingdom period is scarcely represented around Serra West. At the foot of Jebel Sheikh Yacub are the remains of some graves of type 9 (24–H–3 24–H–4). One contained a human skeleton, extended on its back, together with a cup of red-brown ware with red polished outside. Sherds of a brown cup with a red painted rim were also collected.

Somewhat north of Khor Shebbi Firki, the large wadi south of Serra village an isolated grave of type 7 (24–M–8) was recorded. A small pottery flask, and a cup were buried with the deceased.

On a protruding sandstone cliff close to the river, about 2 km. south of Serra, is the tomb of Sheikh Oweis el Gurny. Dr. Vercoult recorded the existence of mud brick remains near this tomb, which he ascribed to the Pharaonic period. While drawing a sketch map of this much-eroded structure (24–M–1) which from its simplicity might have been only an observation post, the entrance to what may possibly be an Egyptian rock-cut grave was discovered in 1961. Around the entrance a forecourt had been constructed, partly hewn out of the sandstone, partly built from well-dressed blocks. Dangerous cracks in the roof of the first chamber caused us to stop the excavation almost at once. The

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19 Steindorff, Aniba, i, pl. 27, f.
20 Id., pl. 69.
21 Red polished, black mouthed: black ware, outside covered with red haematite with the exception of the rim which is left black. Most plain surface, but some with incised decorations.
22 Steindorff, Aniba, ii, p. 91.
24 Id., p. 25 (N.K. pottery type II).
25 Steindorff, Aniba, ii, pl. 87, type 49, 2.
26 Kush ix, p. 25 (N.K. pottery type III).
Scandinavian Joint Expedition has subsequently been granted a licence to excavate this site.

Three cemeteries of the Meroitic period were discovered around Serra. Two of them (24-I-3, 24-M-9) adjoined X-Group cemeteries (see map facing p. 12, above). Only 24-M-12, on the south bank of Khor Shebbi Firk, lacked this relationship.

With a few exceptions like the lateral niche type (16) and the rectangular grave pit (type 17), all graves were at least partly built of mud bricks, which

material was in most cases used for the construction of a vaulted roof. Graves of types 11, 12 and 13 were found, having an average north-west/south-east orientation. In several cases, remains of rectangular superstructures of mud bricks were found on the surface around the grave pits.

All the graves excavated (about twenty altogether in the three cemeteries) were found to have been plundered. For this reason none of the burials, of which there were often more than one to a grave, remained in its original position, while of the offerings with the dead, much of the pottery had been broken. Most of the shapes of jars and cups are published in Griffith’s corpus for the Faras Cemetery.\(^28\) **PLATE VI, a,** shows some of the painted designs. Several of the contents of 24-M-12, however, are different, as is shown in **FIG. 3** and **PLATE V, a,** which represent the collections from graves b and c respectively. Among the potsherds, two pieces of ‘barbotine ware’\(^29\) were found.

\(^28\) Griffith, *LAAA*, xi, pl. xv–xxxii: types VIIIIf, IXa, XIV, XXXVIIIf, LVIc, LXIIIc, LXIVa, i, LXXa, LXXI, LXXIVc, LXXVlc, LXXXIIIc.

\(^29\) Griffith, *LAAA*, xi, pl. xl ix.
From cemetery 24–I–3 came three sandstone offering tables, together with beads of carnelian, white marble, green and blue faience, glass with gold leaf inside, and multi-coloured glass.\textsuperscript{30}

Copper or bronze and iron were used in the manufacture of single-barbed fishhooks, a spearhead, and two finger-rings, one of which had a seal engraved with a galloping horse.

The aerial photographs of Serra West show, at the northern and southern ends of the village, two groups of small circles. They are the tumuli marking two \textbf{X-Group} cemeteries (24–I–3, 24–M–10). A circular surrounding ditch with an average diameter of 6 m. supplied the material for these flat hills some 50 cm. high. Denudation of the mounds and the filling up of the ditches by sand had made several of the structures invisible. The fact that during the rain of October 1960 these rings of sand were more heavily soaked with water than was the surrounding desert, caused them to appear as dark coloured circles when the soil started to dry again. The grave pits also showed up for the same reason (\textbf{Plate I}, b). Advantage was taken of this occasion to map one whole cemetery (24–I–3); over 170 graves were located.

A total of twenty graves was investigated. They belonged mostly to the type with a lateral niche and that with an end chamber (types 15, 16). In a few cases mud bricks had been used to complete the construction (type 13), while in others there was a covering of stone slabs (type 17).\textsuperscript{31} The orientation north-east/south-west predominated (\textbf{Plate IV}, b, grave type 13).

Although all the graves had been plundered, a considerable collection of pottery had been left behind, which largely corresponded to the types represented at Ballana and Qustul.\textsuperscript{32} In particular, jars (types 28–38) and cups (type 80) occurred frequently (\textbf{Plate V}, b).

Fragments of textiles, in which the burials had been wrapped, and of leather were found; also some beads of stone, faience, bone, ivory, and glass with gold leaf.

Pottery kilns (24–N–3) and two cemeteries are traces left by the Christian inhabitants of early Serra. The former will be described elsewhere in this volume.\textsuperscript{33} Of the cemeteries, the one situated on the south bank of Khor Shebbi Firk (24–M–13) was investigated by Vercoutter in 1955.

Another cemetery (24–M–11) was found in the middle of Serra village. Here on the alluvial plain, about eighty small heaps of stones remained of the rectangular superstructures built over the graves. As the surface had been regularly irrigated some years previously, not much was left of these structures.

\begin{footnotesize}
\begin{enumerate}
\item Id., pl. lxxiii.
\item Of the twenty graves excavated two belonged to type 13, five to type 15, twelve to type 16 and one to type 17.
\item Emery, \textit{Ballana and Qustul}, types 8, 14, 23ab, 26a, 33a, 38, 40d, 44b, 50a, 57d, 79, 80, 86c, 87d.
\item pp. 70–1, below.
\end{enumerate}
\end{footnotesize}
KUSH

They seemed to have been built of mud lined with stones, while some of them still revealed a small chapel containing a pottery lamp. The burials, in graves of type 18, were extended on their backs with head towards the west.

At a few places along the river, potsherds of X-Group/Christian origin were found.

Debeira West

The name Debeira West is given to that area along the western bank of the Nile that lies inside square R of the Sudan Antiquities Service 15 ft. system. In the south, close to Argin, there is some habitation near the cultivated strip beside the river. The remainder of this region is a gravel plateau which falls away towards a small sandy terrace close to the Nile.

Many microliths of flint and other stone were collected from among the gravel on the plateau; but no traces of habitation were found.

One small A-Group cemetery (24–R–21) was spotted. The few round and oval pits (types 1, 2) excavated supplied us with a red polished dish, three jars\(^{34}\) and a quartz palette. All the burials had been disturbed.

Two cemeteries of the C-Group period remained. The northern one (24–R–13) was very denuded—only a few stones indicated the original existence of stone superstructures around the oval graves. Two black ware bowls with incised decoration were collected.

On a small hill with sand and boulders, a second C-Group cemetery (24–R–17) had been laid out. Of the estimated number of fifty graves, five were excavated. Here the stone circles were rather well preserved; the graves had all been robbed. Again burials had been placed near the surface, outside the graves, in a contracted position, lying on the right side with skull towards the east. In several cases pottery was found around the superstructures, mostly on the north-east side. RP.BM bowls were frequent; also a Qena ware pot, a black bowl with an incised decoration and a ‘Nubian’ jar were collected. Among the small finds a bronze dagger with an ivory handle\(^{35}\) should be mentioned.

A group of some twenty graves in the northern part of Debeira West (24–R–5) can be assigned to the X-Group period. The three graves excavated, all with a lateral niche (type 16) had been robbed. Only one reddish jar\(^{36}\) was collected.

There are two other cemeteries of the X-Group period in this area (24–R–11, 24–R–12). Among their graves (types 13, 16) were several rectangular ones with heaps of stones on top, indicating the continued use of this place into Christian

\(^{34}\) Cf. Griffith, *LAAA*, viii : type 1, 2, 3.
\(^{35}\) Cf. Steindorff, *Aniba*, i, pl. 70–1.
\(^{36}\) Cf. Kirwan, *Firka* : type 12d, with yellow ‘splash’ design.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

times. Together with two more Christian cemeteries (24–R–4, 24–R–9), ruins of three churches (24–R–1, 24–R–2 and 24–R–3), of mud brick houses and some large mud brick buildings with vaulted roofs (24–R–8), all these remains show the extensive occupation of this area during Christian times.\(^{37}\) As it was impossible in the course of this survey to start any exploration of so large a site, the whole area between the churches has been left untouched.

Near cemetery 24–R–17, on the surface, mixed with charcoal and stones, many potsherds of rather thin black and brownish ware were found. They are from hand-made pots of spherical shape, without neck. Along the rims of some of them were decorations of comb impressions.

ARGIN

In the Argin area, only the region along the Nile north of the village was investigated by the writer. Two large rectangular graves and some round ones (types 1, 3) constituted an A-Group cemetery (24–V–2). The latter were all empty. The former, although they had been robbed, still gave evidence of rich offerings: several pieces of pottery (broken), among which were nicely decorated ‘variegated haematitic’ ware,\(^{38}\) Egyptian jars, and rather large wheel-made beakers of hard orange ware. In addition, there were two palettes of white quartz and two of pottery, and a grindstone.

Cemetery 24–V–4, of uncertain origin, consisted of some fifteen small rectangular graves, which were all empty, and three bigger ones (type 8), two of which contained extended burials on their backs, with heads to west-north-west. In one case a wheel-made jar of brown ware\(^{39}\) was placed near the feet. Nearby two round graves were noted. In one, among scattered skeletal remains six scarabs were found, probably dating from the Second Intermediate Period, (PLATE VI, b).

Of the Meroitic period, a group of about ten graves remained (24–W–6). They were all of the type with a lateral niche (16) and orientated east/west. They had all been robbed. One grave contained some pieces of pottery\(^{40}\) in the sand fill. Part of an inscribed stone block was also found bearing a representation of a king making an offering.

Judging by their pottery contents,\(^{41}\) two graves of type 10 (24–V–5) could also be ascribed to the Meroitic period. In both, the burials were extended on their backs with heads towards the east.

Cemeteries 24–V–3, 24–W–4 and 24–W–5 belong to the X-Group period. Again plundering had caused much damage to the burials and offerings. However, some pottery vessels remained which were comparable with some from

\(^{37}\) Several of these sites have previously been recorded by Vercoutter.


\(^{39}\) Reisner, \textit{ASN} (1907–8), pl. 61c 4.

\(^{40}\) Griffith, \textit{LAAA}, xi, types XIV, XXXIII\textit{c}, XXXVII, LXXI.

\(^{41}\) Id., types XIV, one decorated.
KUSH

Serra.\textsuperscript{42} Traces of only a few of the tumuli which had originally topped the graves were visible; the rest had been destroyed by erosion.

The sole remains of the Christian period in this part of Argin were a small group of rectangular graves with some stones on top (24–V–7).

GEZIRA DABAROSA

When the writer finished his survey work, only a small part of the area around the village of Gezira Dabarosa had yet been investigated.

One very denuded C-\textbf{Group} cemetery (6–B–2) was located. It consisted of some fifteen oval graves, without superstructures. In only one pit did the skeleton remain \textit{in situ}, contracted on its right side, with skull towards the east. In addition to an ointment jar\textsuperscript{43} and a Kerma beaker, some sherds of RP.BM ware were collected.

Cemetery 6–G–2 is possibly of X-\textbf{Group} date. All the graves had lateral niches or end chambers, while their shapes at the surface varied from rectangular or trapezoidal to very long narrow pits (a few were over 4 m. in length). Several of the burials were still in their original position: extended on their backs, hands on pelvis, with feet to the east.

To the same period could be dated the earliest remains of a small village (6–G–6) whose occupation continued well into the Christian period. Traces of houses were found over an area of $500 \times 200$ m., mostly buried under a heavy layer of sand. Test excavations were undertaken at two places to the north-east and at the east end of the mound (see plan, FIG. 4).

The houses incorporated some mud bricks and some mud with stones placed in herring-bone fashion. Some had been abandoned, and after a period of time when sand accumulated on the mud floors, were inhabited a second time. That part of the walls which stood above the sand was replastered and a new floor was laid. This story was repeated several times: four different floors, all separated from one another by layers of wind-blown sand, were recorded. Blocked doorways and sets of thresholds, one above the other reflected the same development.

Sometimes, however, the action of wind and sand, and perhaps of an occasional rainstorm, made re-use of certain houses impossible. Then the construction of a new building was begun, often above the remains of an older one. A good example of this was found in the eastern part of the village where the walls of three periods overlay each other.

The pottery kiln that was found in the eastern excavation probably belonged to the earliest period. With its cylindrical shape, its floor resting on arches of bricks and its reinforcements in two later periods, it is similar to one of the types described by Adams.\textsuperscript{44}

\textsuperscript{42} 24–I–3, 24–I–10. \hspace{1cm} \textsuperscript{43} See Steindorff, \textit{Aniba}, 1, pl. 62–13.

\textsuperscript{44} Kush IX, pp. 30–43 and in particular FIG. 3.
Fig. 5. PLAN OF THE CHURCH AT GEZIRA DABAROSA
PLATE I

a. MEROITIC REMAINS AT FARAS WEST

b. X-GROUP CEMETERY AT SERRA AFTER RAIN

facing p. 32
PLATE III

a

b

ROCK DRAWINGS AT JEBEL SHEIKH YACUB
a. MEROITIC POTTERY (GRAVE 24-M-12c)

b. X-GROUP POTTERY
a. DESIGNS ON MEROITIC POTTERY

b. SCARABS FROM CEMETERY 24-V-2
a. MUDBRICK CHURCH AT GEZIRA DABAROSA

b. REMAINS OF BUILDING BELOW THE CHURCH
At a later stage a small church was added to the village (6-G-7, Plate VII, a). The walls and four pillars of mud bricks\(^{45}\) were faced with mud and afterwards covered with white plaster. Of the stone constructions inside the church—the altar and the staircase leading to the pulpit—a few blocks remained. The entrances to the sacristies and the two western rooms were originally closed by doors as was indicated by the stones with little holes in them which had supported the hinge posts.

The main entrances were found to have been blocked with stones. Among them were two inscribed blocks with parts of the cartouche of Taharka.

The church floor consisted of carefully laid stone slabs. Below it were found the remains of an older building with thick walls of stones and mud (Plate VII, b). Unfortunately, no traces of it remained outside the church. A small rectangular building of mud brick represented a third period at this site. (Plan, Fig. 5.) The church was built against a heavy wall of large boulders and mud, which formed the western limit of the village.

A careful excavation of a big section of this village would certainly be worth while as it would make possible a detailed study of the transition from the X-Group to the Christian period.

\(^{45}\) Alternating courses of headers and stretchers, resting on one course of standing mud bricks.
Excavations and Survey in Faras, Argin and Gezira Dabarosa

by Hans-Åke Nordström

This preliminary report describes the results of trial excavations and survey in three different omoudias along the west bank of the Nile (Faras, Argin and Gezira Dabarosa) carried out during April–May 1960 and January–April 1961. The report has been divided into three sections, each covering the work accomplished in one village. This seemed to be the most useful way of reporting, since the work was of a different character in the three regions.

FARAS

1. The large C-Group Cemetery (24-E-3)

One of the most important early sites in Faras is the large C-Group cemetery which Griffith partially excavated during his campaign in 1910–12. It is situated on a gravel slope above the sandstone scarp which forms the border between the Nile Valley and the desert plateau about 2 km. west to north-west of the village. The cemetery covers an area of some 110×160 m. with its widest point in a line north-north-east to south-south-west by compass (local north to south) (Fig. 1). Its highest point, c. 25 m. above the river, is located at the north-east end, whence the slope declines gently towards the scarp to the east and towards a narrow khor to the south.

Griffith’s excavation comprised 244 graves in the west and south-west parts, i.e. nearly half the site. During investigations in 1960, 203 more superstructures were traced on the surface or immediately beneath it. Several more are certainly to be found in the most southerly part of the slope and between the visible stone circles (see Fig. 1). In all, the cemetery consists probably of nearly 500 graves, including those excavated in 1910–12. This makes it one of the largest known

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1 This work was carried out at the conclusion of the first season’s survey on the west bank of the Nile. Study of the material was completed too late for inclusion in the first season’s report (Kush IX, pp. 7–43).
2 Griffith’s site no. 2, reported in LAA, VIII, pp. 72 ff.
3 For exact location, see Kush IX, FIG. 1, facing p. 8.
4 Griffith, op. cit., pl. ix.
5 On the map, the graves are numbered from 1 to 203. ‘C’ is put in front of each number to differentiate the remaining graves from those excavated by Griffith.
for the C-Group culture, comparable in size with the cemeteries of Aniba and Dakka.⁶

Many indications were found of extensive plundering in the site: bones, potsherds and sandstone slabs are scattered over the surface of the wind-blown sand which has been accumulated between the grave cairns. The visible superstructures are all circular or near circular in shape and built of sandstone slabs, the greater number of the circles being 3 to 5 m. in diameter (FIG. 1). No trace was found of the offering chapels outside the superstructures which are known from cemeteries in Lower Nubia.⁷

The excavations in 1960 included twenty-two graves in the north-east extension, the most northerly part of the cemetery, and one grave in the extreme south (FIGS. 1 and 2).⁸ Excavation of six graves (nos. Ci–C5 and C13–C14) was restricted to the burial inside the stone enclosure. The remaining sixteen (nos. C16–C24 and C27–C33) were discovered within an area of some 17 × 25 m. which was investigated in its entirety except for the interior of two graves that were partly covered by a bench mark (nos. C25 and C44) (FIG. 2).

The excavated graves

The masonry superstructures of the excavated graves consisted of rather coarse sandstone, sometimes quite well built, standing to a height of between 40 and 80 cm. above the original gravel. Some of them were fully preserved, others were partly damaged. In a few cases, only the lowest layer of the stone enclosures or a few stones around the grave pit remained. The walls were normally 30 to 40 cm. thick. The size of the superstructures varied between extreme limits of 2 m. and 6.5 m. in diameter. Within the fully excavated area the graves in the eastern sector rested directly on the gravel beneath the wind-blown yellow sand, while some of the graves in the western sector were built on top of a loose, grey, stratified layer of sandy gravel, later covered by yellow sand (FIG. 2, section of grave C17). Some of the graves were 'roofed', i.e. a thin paving of sandstone slabs covered the inside of the superstructures. Remains of the same kind of paving were discovered between the graves too, on a level with the uppermost parts of the superstructures (FIG. 2).⁹

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⁶ Steindorff, *Aniba*, 1, Cemetery N; Firth, *ASN*, 1908–9, Cemetery 101.
⁷ Steindorff, op. cit., 1 fig. 6. All the graves in the Faras cemetery seem to be of Types I–III, p. 36.
⁸ During his short visit to the Sudan in 1960, Mr L. P. Kirwan excavated six graves at the north-east end (nos. Ci–C4, C13–C14) and one grave in the extreme south (no. C5). He cleared the outside of some other superstructures in different parts of the cemetery, marked on the map, fig. 1. He kindly gave me the resultant material from his investigations to be included in this report, for which I express my gratitude.
⁹ Compare Steindorff, op. cit., 1, p. 32. Paving between the superstructures has, as far as I know, not been recorded previously.
KUSH

In ten graves the burial pits were preserved. They were all orientated ± north-east to south-west, the shape being mostly rectangular with rounded corners, or oval, size normally 120-150 x 70-100 cm., depth 80-100 cm. A few bigger pits were about 100 x 220 cm. in size, depth 140 cm. Only one of the burials remained unplundered and intact (C1) and in a couple of the others the skeletons were left partly in situ (C28 and C29). These skeletons were contracted on their right side, head to the north-east, facing north-west.

The finds

Pottery forms the main part of the finds from the excavated graves. Most of the vessels were offering pots found outside the graves, normally to the north-east of the superstructures or in spaces between the circles which could not with certainty be attributed to any particular grave (C16E). The grave pits usually contained sherds, and in a few cases only, whole pots. The pottery divides more or less equally among the most common C-Group types. Black topped, red polished (= B. T. R. P. 10) bowls are most frequent, all of them with plain surfaces and rims but of different shapes. 11 Vessels of ‘Nubian’ ware 12 are abundant too, some of them with incised decoration, usually of geometric design. On one pot human figures and animals were represented. Sherds and a few pots of B.P. incised ware with geometric patterns (rows of hatched triangles, rhombs, squares, etc.) were found within or outside twelve of the excavated graves. Some of the sherds have remains of multicoloured fill and polish. 13 Jars and smaller containers of Qena ware with greenish fracture and pink or greyish surface were discovered mostly from offering pots outside the graves. 14 Vessels of other wares attributed to the C-Group culture were relatively frequent: fabrics with red-brown, red or pink slip were most abundant, among them a pot-stand which might be dated to the Late C-Group (PLATE VIII, c). 15

Beads of faience, shell and carnelian, normally tiny and ring-shaped 16 were most frequent among the smaller finds from inside the graves. A few hair-clips of mother-of-pearl 17 and ivory bracelets 18 and finger-rings were of the common C-Group types. Other finds typical of C-Group burials occurred occasionally—heads of ‘dolls’, 19 a female clay figure, 20 fragments of cloth and remains of leather kilts. 21

10 In this report some conventional abbreviations for different C-Group wares are used: B.T.—black topped; R.P.—red polished; B.P.—black polished.
11 Griffith, op. cit., pl. xv, Type IX. 12 Cf. Steindorff, op. cit., 1, pls. 54–6.
15 Cf. potstands of New Kingdom date: Steindorff, op. cit., 11, pl. 68a; Randall-Maclver and Woolley, Buhé, pl. 48: SLI.
16 Steindorff, op. cit., 1, pl. 26, a and h. 17 Ibid., pl. 39: 13, 20–3.
20 Ibid., pl. 72: 15. 21 Griffith, op. cit., p. 74.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

In the unplundered grave C1, a bronze dagger was found in situ beside the pelvis of the skeleton. It was wrapped in cloth and lay with some fragments of leather and a sharpened of hard grey stone (Plate VIII, b). The blade is 16 cm. long and has a shallow groove on one side. An ivory knob had originally been fitted to the handle with small silver rivets. This dagger is of a type which is conventionally dated to the Late C-Group,22 i.e. contemporary with the Hyksos period in Egypt.23

Eight bucrania were discovered outside and between the superstructures (C16E, C18, C31). Some of them were undoubtedly in situ, lying north-east of the masonry, others had probably been disturbed by plunderers (C16E). The result of a study of four of the best preserved bucrania carried out by Mr H. T. B. Hall of the Ministry of Animal Resources in Khartoum is published below (pp. 58–61).24 In one of the graves (C1) two skeletons of sheep (or goats) were buried with the dead.

Conclusions

Griffith’s assumption that ‘bricked graves and chapels’, i.e. grave types conventionally dated to the Late C-Group, were perhaps to be found at the northern end of the cemetery25 can be confirmed neither by investigation of the surface of the whole site, nor by the excavations reported above. Despite the fact that this extensive cemetery must have been used for a considerable time, probably through several generations, we have not found any clear signs of various grave types with different distribution within the burial ground as is the case in cemeteries of similar size in Lower Nubia,26 nor was there any distinct chronological grouping of the pottery or of the other finds from the excavations. A few items only suggest that the north-east extension might be of Late C-Group date, but this does not prove that the cemetery as a whole had developed from south to north as was implied by Griffith. Indeed, we may call in question the view that the difference between the mud brick graves of C-Group date and those with sandstone superstructures is purely chronological. It may rather be a result of differences in the social structure of the culture.27

As to the structure of C-Group society we still have insufficient information to form any definite opinion. Firstly, we know very little about the connections between the C-Group and the Kerma culture and we still have to determine its

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24 For Mr Hall’s helpful co-operation and very valuable and interesting information, I wish to express my gratitude.
25 Griffith, op. cit., p. 72.
26 Steindorff, op. cit., I, p. 36; Firth, ASN, 1908–9, plan 3.
27 Steindorff, op. cit., I, pp. 34 f.
KUSH

chronological and social relationships with the A-Group and other cultures of early Nubian history. Secondly, we have theoretical ideas only about the provenience of the C-Group people and their culture. The former question might be solved when the survey of Sudanese Nubia has been completed throughout the endangered region and the resultant material has been analysed. The latter problem might at least be narrowed a little if we regard not only the physiological features of the C-Group people themselves but also another aspect of their society which seems to be very important: the cattle.

There are indications that the C-Group cattle were directly related to the Hamitic Longhorn and to the *Bos africanus* domesticated by the Egyptians. 28 There is as yet no evidence that these long-horned cattle existed anywhere else but in the Nile Valley at the time when the A-Group and C-Group people inhabited Nubia. 29 We have, moreover, as Hall has pointed out, 30 indications of a similarity of tradition in the treatment of the cattle along the Nile Valley as a whole between the Old Kingdom in Egypt and our own time.

An assumption that the domestication of the ‘longhorns’ of the Nile Valley by the C-Group people originated from the vast plains of the central Sudan, which probably formed an ideal breeding ground, seems more logical and suggestive than the supposition that domestication was introduced from Egypt into Nubia and southwards along the river. 31 However, even if such a domestication might have been carried out in various regions of the Nile Valley we may refer to the archaeological indication that the C-Group people developed the first Nubian society in which cattle—presumably the ‘longhorns’—played an important part. (As to the A-Group culture, different burial customs might explain why we have not found similar indications in the graves.) Considering these aspects it seems reasonable to assume that the C-Group people—or at least a part of their population—originated as cattle breeding nomads from the vast regions south of Nubia, where to a certain extent they might have developed their culture.

There were certainly many reasons why the ancient Egyptians attempted several times to strengthen and protect their route along the river to the south: a general political and cultural expansion; an extensive trade in gold, ivory and slaves, etc. 32 Nevertheless, the supply of cattle might have at times been an important economic factor for the growing Egyptian society. 33 From this point

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28 See Hall, p. 61 below.
29 Ibid., personal communication.
30 Ibid., p. 61 below.
31 This theory is put forward by Lucas, ‘Some Egyptian connexions with Sudan Agriculture’, in *Agriculture in the Sudan*, ed. J. D. Tothill, pp. 19–21.
32 As to these activities in the south, see Säve-Söderbergh, *Ägypten und Nubien*.
33 Already during the Old Kingdom the Egyptians made raids towards the south in which cattle formed a considerable part of the booty. Also the Egyptian armies in Wawat and Kush might have been largely supplied with meat from Nubian cattle, obtained by force or delivered as a tribute. See Emery-Kirwan, op. cit., pp. 2 and 8.
of view we may better understand why the cattle breeding C-Group people were able to, or forced to, keep a fairly strong and 'unegyptian' position in Nubia which lasted for several centuries.

2. Unidentified graves (24–I–4 and 24–I–5)

On the gravel slopes and terraces of the desert plateau south-west of the village two small groups of unidentified graves were discovered. The graves consisted of simple circular or oval pits in the gravel, size \( c. 125 \times 70 \) cm., depth 80–100 cm. All of them seemed to have been plundered. In the pits excavated some potsherds with dotted impressions were found, together with some human bones, fragments of ivory and several disc-shaped beads of faience and shell. In one grave in site 24–I–4 a pot was lying at the bottom of the pit. It is a bowl of greyish, straw-tempered, coarse ware with rounded bottom and body bearing a deeply impressed spiral pattern which covers the whole of the outside (Plate VIII, a). A sherd probably with the same kind of decoration was found by Griffith in the large C-Group cemetery reported above.

ARGIN

Argin is one of the largest villages in the Wadi Halfa district, situated on the west bank a few kilometres north of Halfa town. Here the border between the desert plateau and the valley lies about 400–700 m. from the river and consists of a series of gravel terraces and sandstone scarps, along which the greater part of the village is distributed over an area of about 8 km. from north to south. The region beneath the terraces forms an alluvial plain, covered to a large extent by wind-blown sand and distinct sand dunes which line the river bank. The plain is partly overgrown by tamarisk scrub, and—close to the river—by palm trees. Only a small part of it is cultivated. Some groups of modern houses are located on the dunes and alongside the river.

Only a few archaeological sites were previously known from this region. Two of them, both large X-Group cemeteries, are situated at the northern and southern ends of the village (24–V–1 and 6–B–1 respectively). These are under excavation by the Spanish Committee for Co-operation with Unesco (see pp. 211–19, below). Each site is covered by a concession area of some 2 to 3 square km. from the desert plateau to the river bank.

The writer's work was limited to a survey of the plateau west of Argin and the parts which remain outside the concessions mentioned above, i.e. the middle and southern parts of the village. In these areas twenty-five archaeological sites were recorded, of which one was previously known. In addition, one site

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34 For exact location, see note 2 above.
35 Griffith, op. cit., p. xii: 20. Cf. Firth, ASN, 1910–11, pl. 25a. This pot might be assigned to the Pan-grave culture, cf. Brunton, Mostagedda, pl. lxxii, form 9, with a similar decoration.
36 See note 43 below.
KUSH

(6–B–3) was investigated within the southern concession in accordance with an agreement between the Spanish Committee and the Antiquities Service. The sites are widely distributed throughout the region investigated, which excluded the cultivations, the overgrown areas, and those parts of the southern end of the village which are deeply covered by loose sand.

THE CEMETERIES

The cemeteries, smaller groups of graves and single burials are all located on the desert plateau, on the terraces among the modern houses and in the most westerly part of the alluvial plain. Only a few graves were excavated at each site.


Most of the burial places from the early periods are denuded or plundered. None of the graves excavated was undisturbed. It is, therefore, difficult even to determine the general character of the majority of these sites. The best preserved cemetery (6–B–4) is situated on the desert plateau. It consists of about twenty round cairns of sandstone slabs and pebbles. All of them seem to have been plundered. In the graves excavated a few pots of C-Group type\(^{37}\) were found covered by stones in the north-east parts of the cairns. The remaining sites consist of one very denuded C-Group cemetery (6–B–7) on the plateau with remains of about thirty sandstone superstructures, a single plundered grave (24–V–10) and a few denuded graves (6–B–14 and 24–V–14) on the sandy plain beneath the village.

2. Egyptian Graves (6–B–3, 6–B–11, 6–B–12, 6–B–18, 6–B–24)

Within the southern concession, a few hundred metres north of the large X-Group cemetery 6–B–1, a small Egyptian necropolis was recorded (6–B–3). It consists of six shaft graves cut into a sandstone outcrop lying in an open space between the modern houses. The shafts are mostly rectangular, about 100 × 200 cm. in size and filled with sand in the visible upper parts. One of the graves was cleared during the survey in 1956.\(^{38}\) The writer excavated another of the burials and investigated the surface of the site as a whole. The grave (no. 4) consists of a shaft, size 100 × 200 cm., depth 240 cm., orientated north-west to south-east. At the north-west end of the entrance were found two chambers lying one behind the other. The inner chamber contained a rectangular grave pit, thoroughly plundered. In the outer chamber and in the shaft a few whole pots and many sherds were found. Among the smaller finds a scarab, a bronze finger-ring, fragments of white plaster with traces of paint and pieces of wood.

\(^{37}\) Griffith, op. cit., pl. xv, Type IXb. Other pots are of soft brown ware.

may be mentioned.\textsuperscript{39} Judging from this material the shaft grave was probably constructed in New Kingdom times and re-used during the Meroitic period and later.

The other Pharaonic sites were discovered on the desert plateau (6–B–11, 6–B–12) and among the houses at the southern part of the village (6–B–18, 6–B–24). The former consisted of rectangular graves, lined with sandstone and granite blocks (PLATE IX, a).\textsuperscript{40} The latter were small circular pits dug into the alluvium or gravel. In these graves a few pots of New Kingdom type (PLATE IX, b),\textsuperscript{41} a rectangular seal,\textsuperscript{42} and an amulet\textsuperscript{43} were found.


Most of these cemeteries from the late period are situated along the terraces and in the western part of the plain below the modern houses. The largest site was recorded in the middle of the village and comprised graves of various types from the Meroitic period as well as from the X-Group and Christian eras (24–V–9).\textsuperscript{44} It covers an area of some 100 m. from north to south. At the northern end of the site there are some big tumuli, built of sandstone and granite slabs, 6 to 10 m. in diameter, height 30 to 50 cm. They might be dated to the X-Group/Christian era. The middle and southern parts of the cemetery consist of simple Christian pit graves, at least a hundred in number. The western part, lying among the modern houses, is dominated by a group of Meroitic graves. A couple of these were excavated. They were lined with mud bricks and consisted of a low shaft with end or side chamber. A few pots of Meroitic date were found.\textsuperscript{45}

Similar graves with rectangular shafts and end or side chambers were recorded on the desert plateau and in the southern part of the village (24–V–8, 6–B–16, 6–B–25). They may be dated to the Meroitic and X-Group period.

On the plain south of the large X-Group cemetery 6–B–1 some Christian graves were discovered (6–B–13). They consisted of simple rectangular shafts with the burial placed at the bottom or in a narrow side chamber.

\textsuperscript{39} The material from this shaft grave has been delivered to the Spanish Committee for publication.

\textsuperscript{40} Cf. Verwers' report in KUSH IX, p. 24, pl. iv, a-b.

\textsuperscript{41} Ibid., fig. 6. One pot similar to Randall-MacIver and Woolley, Buhen, pl. 47 : SXXVII.

\textsuperscript{42} Probably of New Kingdom date.

\textsuperscript{43} Steindorff, op. cit., II, pl. 51 : 29–30.

\textsuperscript{44} One of these tumuli was investigated by Sayed Thabit Hassan Thabit in 1956.

\textsuperscript{45} Cf. Griffith, LAAA, xi, pl. xv, Type 11 and pl. xxviii, Type LXVa.
KUSH

4. **Unidentified Graves (6–B–10, 6–B–15, 6–B–22, 6–B–23)**

Graves of uncertain date, either single denuded or plundered graves, or small groups of graves with unidentified pottery were found in the southern part of the village, most of them on the plateau. Two of them (6–B–22, 6–B–23) might be from an early period.\(^46\)

**THE HABITATION SITES**

The habitation remains are all situated on the plain below the desert plateau, more or less close to the river bank. The investigation of them was limited to trial trenches and test pits and no systematic excavation was carried out.

1. **A-Group and C-Group (24–V–11, 6–B–6)**

Two settlements were found from the early period, both situated among the modern houses in the middle of the village. One of them (24–V–11) is located on a dune and consists of a thin dark habitation layer with potsherds beneath the wind-blown sand. It covers an area of some \(10 \times 15\) m. The other site (6–B–6) is formed by a heap of sandstone slabs and granite blocks lying about 10 to 30 cm. beneath the surface over an area of about \(3 \times 15\) m. with its widest part lying north-west to south-east. No structural order could, however, be traced among these remains. The finds from the two sites consist mainly of sherds—from the former settlement, of C-Group types (B.T.R.P., ‘Nubian’ ware, incised coarse ware); from the latter, of A-Group.


Four sites from the later period were recorded on dunes and open spaces close to the river bank in the middle and southern parts of the village. Two of them (24–V–12 and 6–B–20) seem to be rather denuded. They were covered by deep sand and yielded only a few loose remains of structures, such as door stones and parts of granite pillars. Judging from the sherds they are of pure Christian date.\(^47\) The two other sites (24–V–13, 6–B–8) are large. The trial trenches and test pits revealed remains of mud brick walls and different habitation layers, some of them found deeply buried in wind-blown sand. The site 24–V–13 originates from the late X-Group and early Christian era, while 6–B–8 covers the Meroitic, X-Group and Christian periods. This site, which includes a pottery kiln of Meroitic date (see p. 64, below) may be a valuable subject for further investigations.

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\(^46\) One grave in 6–B–23 with a partly disturbed skeleton in a contracted position.

\(^47\) All material from these habitation sites has been incorporated in Adam’s pottery classification, see pp. 245–88, below.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

GEZIRA DABAROSA

This village is situated directly opposite Wadi Halfa town. It is divided into three parts geologically: at the river a broad mud flat which is entirely cultivated; west of the cultivations a narrow strip of sand and dunes over which modern houses and huts are scattered; above the houses a distinct scarp rising up to the desert plateau. The scarp gives place south of the village to a series of gravel terraces and hills alongside the river.

The writer's investigations covered the region south of the town site (6–G–6) in the northern part of the village and reached a point about 2.3 km. north of Buhen, where the border of the Egypt Exploration Society's concession reaches the river. Within this region several cemeteries and habitation sites were recorded. None of them was previously known.

THE CEMETERIES

1. A-Group and C-Group Cemeteries

(a) The large A-Group and C-Group Cemetery (6–G–18)

In the most southerly part of the area investigated, is a large cemetery from the early phase of Nubian history. It is located on and around a gentle rise in the alluvial plain at the mouth of a wadi some 125 m. from the river bank.

Only a complete investigation can determine the extent of this cemetery, since very little or nothing at all of the graves is visible on the surface. The original alluvial ground is loose on top, probably due to heavy transport vehicles which have passed over the site in modern times. The rise and an area of some 50 m. around it may enclose the largest part of the cemetery. The alluvium in this area is covered by only a thin layer of wind-blown sand and seems to be ideal ground for pit graves of A-Group and C-Group types.

The character of the site made necessary investigations more extensive than usual. For this reason an area of some $30 \times 45$ m. in the northern half of the rise was systematically excavated during a few weeks in February and March 1961. When the sand and the upper part of the alluvial ground were taken off layer by layer, the outlines of the grave pits became visible. Forty-six graves were discovered in this way and all of them were excavated. In addition, two graves had been dug in the south-west part of the rise.

The graves divide themselves mainly into two groups: (a) C-Group graves in the southern part of the excavated area towards the assumed centre of the cemetery; (b) A-Group graves in the northern part of the site (fig. 3). Between these groups some grave pits were found, which were empty or of uncertain date.

Definite and probable A-Group graves numbered fifteen. They were all unplundered and lacked completely any marks on the surface. They consisted mainly of oval pits, some $75 \times 150$ cm. in extent, depth around 60 cm., and were filled with sand-mixed alluvium. They were normally orientated $\pm$ north-east
to south-west. Most of them contained one skeleton only, lying on the right side in a contracted position with the arms bent up towards the head. The head was lying to the south-west, facing south-east. Beside the dead one or more pots were often found, the bigger ones frequently being placed along the sides of the pit. Other finds, such as jewellery and toilet articles were also discovered in some of the burials.

Four graves differed from the others in size and richness (nos. 35, 38, 39 and 42). They consisted of rectangular pits, 70 to 80 cm. deep with straight sides, size c. 100 × 250 cm., orientation north-east to south-west. Two of them each contained two skeletons, not buried at the same time. A great many objects remained in these graves: big jars covered by bowls were standing at the foot end; dishes, bowls, cups and other vessels were grouped around the dead; jewellery and toilet articles were found in various places inside the pits (Plate X, a). Two of the graves contained stone grinders and mullers.

The C-Group graves were mostly plundered. Twenty graves could be dated with relative certainty. They consisted of mainly round or oval pits, though a few were rectangular, size c. 100 × 150 cm., depth c. 30 to 80 cm. They were usually orientated east to west. The skeletons were, when preserved, contracted and lying on their right side, head to the east facing north (Plate X, b). Around a few of the graves some remains of a stone enclosure were left. Some of the others were covered and partly filled by coarse sandstone and granite slabs. These had all been plundered. It seems difficult to determine from these facts whether or not the remaining stones had originated from superstructures of common C-Group type.

(b) The smaller groups of graves (6-G-12, 6-G-14, 6-G-16, 6-G-20)

These are all located south of the village on the desert plateau (6-G-12) or on small knolls and rises along the eastern slopes of the gravel terraces which line the river south of the scarp (6-G-20, 6-G-14 and 6-G-16 from north to south). The graves in these groups consisted of simple round or oval pits dug into the gravel and unmarked on the surface. Their size varied between 70 and 180 cm., and their depth between 20 and 100 cm. About ten or fifteen such pits were discovered at each site. Almost all of them had to be excavated since the main part were plundered and only a few burials remained. Intact graves were found in only one of these groups (6-G-16)—three graves datable to the A-Group. The skeletons were lying just beneath the surface. They were all contracted on the right or left side and orientated in different directions. Two of them were children. The finds consisted of pots at the head, beads, an anklet, and a slate palette.

An interesting grave construction was found in site 6-G-20. The inner sides of a circular pit, c. 50 cm. deep, were lined with horizontal sandstone slabs.48

48 Cf. Emery-Kirwan, op. cit., fig. 452, Type B.2, dated to B. Group.
KUSH

The finds from the A-Group and C-Group cemeteries in this region are discussed in a separate section of the report, pp. 51–7, below.

2. **Egyptian Graves (6–G–13)**

On the desert plateau, c. 20 m. west of the scarp just south of the village, some ten grave pits were found, all of them robbed. The pits were unmarked on the surface and dug into the hard gravel. Their shape was circular or oval, and their size varied between 100 to 150×70 to 100 cm. or about 70 cm. in diameter, depth 40 to 100 cm. orientated north to south or east to west. The inside of some of the pits was plastered with mud. In six of the pits human bones were found together with potsherds and fragments of cloth. Most of the sherds were wheel-made of red-brown or greyish-red rather firm ware. One fragment of a flask of light greyish ware with rounded body, short neck and small handle might be dated to the New Kingdom.⁴⁹

3. **Christian Cemeteries (6–G–8, 6–F–2)**

Two cemeteries of Christian date were found, one close to the town site 6–G–6, and the other in the southern part of the region on a gravel terrace west of cemetery 6–G–18. The former (6–G–8) is an extensive site containing probably more than 100 graves within an area of about 140 m. alongside the houses in the village. Six graves were excavated. The latter (6–F–2) consisted of a few graves only, and all of them were excavated. Most of the graves are of the usual Christian types: narrow pits in the alluvium or gravel with one burial either at the bottom of the pit or in a low side chamber, orientated east to west. In the large cemetery (6–G–8) some bigger graves were discovered—rectangular vaulted chambers built of mud brick with several burials in each grave. These are probably of X-Group date.


Two single skeleton graves of uncertain date were found and excavated south of the village. One (6–G–11) was found in a shallow pit, orientated east to west, with a skeleton on its right side, head to the west. It might be of Christian date. The other (6–G–15), which was situated beside a khor, had been plundered. It contained some human bones, some unidentified potsherds and a little amulet-like model of a stone axe(?).

THE HABITATION SITES

1. **A-Group and C-Group (6–F–3, 6–G–21, 6–G–22)**

Three settlements from the early period were recorded in this region, two of them of A-Group date (6–F–3, 6–G–21) and one of C-Group (6–G–22).

⁴⁹ Steindorff, op. cit., II, pl. 83 : 40b.
PLATE VIII

a. 24-I-4, GRAVE 1. Unidentified bowl.

b. 24-E-3, GRAVE 1. C-Group dagger and sharpener.

c. 24-E-3, GRAVE 2. C-Group pot-stand.

FARAS

facing p. 48
PLATE XII

a. C-GROUP POTTERY

b. A-GROUP JEWELLERY

GEZIRA DABAROSA
a. A-GROUP AND PREDYNASTIC CLAY PENDANT, POTSHERDS AND FLINT IMPLEMENTS

b. 6-G-9, MEROITIC/X-GROUP BUILDING. Excavated portion from the west

GEZIRA DABAROSA
The largest (6–F–3) is located about 2.3 km. north of Buhen along the east side of a wadi between 300 and 500 m. from the river, just above the cemetery 6–G–18. The two others lie just south of the village beneath the scarp some 60–100 m. from the river bank. All these settlements are very much denuded. No structural remains were discovered which could be attributed with certainty to the actual period. In site 6–G–22 some mud brick remains were found, among them an oval construction which probably had been a basin. In this site, however, potsherds of a late type, probably Christian, were frequently found together with C-Group sherds. The habitation remains were mostly limited to the surface layer or to a thin layer of charcoal and dark sandy gravel some 20 cm. beneath the surface. The finds from the trial excavations consisted mainly of potsherds, flint implements, a few beads and fragments of ostrich egg-shell.

The potsherds from site 6–F–3 divide themselves into two groups: (1) from the south-east part of the settlement, consisting of incised and impressed sherds of A-Group type (Ware: Class 5a and 5b, see below), some of bowls comparable with the pottery from site 6–G–18 (type A II a 1 see below); (2) from the north-east part, consisting of sherds of reddish or brownish, thick coarse ware, often micaceous. They are frequently decorated with comb impressions and square stamps, or incised with lines below the rim (Plate XIII, a). These sherds are different from the common early dynastic A-Group pottery and might be dated to an earlier period, late predynastic or protodynastic.\(^{50}\) The flint implements from 6–F–3 consist usually of small flakes unevenly trimmed along the sides (Plate XIII, a). A clay pendant (Plate XIII, a) was found on the surface of the site, probably belonging to a denuded grave.

A few A-Group potsherds from site 6–G–21 occur among other unidentified sherd5. They originate in most cases from bowls of wares Class 5a, 5b and 5c (see below). At the same site a brod>5n rhomboid quartz palette was found in the habitation layer.

The C-Group sherds are related to the pottery found in the C-Group settlement at Aniba.\(^{51}\) Sherds of brownish coarse ware with incised patterns (horizontal and vertical lines) were frequent.

2. Remains of Meroitic/X-Group buildings (6–G–9)

In the middle of the village, a few hundred metres south of the site 6–G–6, well preserved remains of buildings were discovered. The site covers an area of about 15 × 55 m. with its widest point lying north to south. It comprises quite a clear system of walls, partly built of mud-brick and partly of stone (Fig. 4, plan and section). The latter were found in the central and southern

\(^{50}\) For comparison, see Arkell, Shaheinab, pl. 41.

\(^{51}\) Steindorff, op. cit., 1, pl. 92.
part of the site where several rooms were enclosed by solid walls, c. 50 to 100 cm. thick and standing to a height of c. 110 cm. They are built of rather coarse sandstone and granite blocks and rest directly on a stratified sand layer which covers the alluvium (see FIG. 4, section). The surface and top of the walls are irregularly plastered with mud. This stonework was probably the foundation for upper walls of mud brick and stones. Remains of such walls, which have fallen to the ground, were found both outside and inside the building. The north-west part of the site consists entirely of mud brick foundations for a wall system, which is only partly preserved. This is attached to the central building and is probably of later date. Other mud brick walls are similarly connected with the masonry in the southern part of the site.

The trial excavation covered an area of some 9 × 20 m. in the central sector and included three rooms, nos. I, II and III, and part of two others, nos. IV and V (FIG. 4). The rest of the site was partly uncovered in order to obtain information about the extent and general nature of the buildings. In the rooms excavated, the fill consisted of mud brick, stones and sand in the upper layers. In the lower part there was a thin, dark charcoal layer, throughout the inside of the building. Between rooms I and II, and rooms II and V thresholds of thin sandstone slabs were found. In the north-east corners of rooms II and IV there were remains of fireplaces built of mud brick and small stones and plastered inside. In all the rooms there were several pots, mostly large containers, standing at floor level or dug into pits in the original gravel. In the fill of the rooms and on the surface potsherds were frequent. Some oval stone grinders were found in the bottom layer.

Most of the potsherds consisted of reddish-brown, coarse, thick, utility ware. In the bottom layer of room II, two whole flasks were found and parts of a third. They are all similar in size and shape and may be attributed to the Meroitic or X-Group era.\(^{52}\)

OTHER SITES

1. Quarry (6-G-10)

In the southern part of the village a quarry was discovered in the sandstone scarp. The whole site was cleared of wind-blown sand. No inscriptions or rock carvings were found. The quarry might be of Christian date or earlier, since a few sherds and a cup of Christian type were found in a crevice in the upper part of the site.

2. Refuse area, probably settlement (6-G-19)

In the southern part of the region investigated, potsherds, mostly unidentified, were found on the surface and immediately beneath it. Some of the sherds were of A-Group type (ware: Class 1 and 5, see below).

\(^{52}\) Cf. Griffith, LAAA, xi, pl. xxii, Type XXXVIc.
The resultant material from the trial excavations of the A-Group and C-Group cemeteries in the Gezira Dabarosa region forms an interesting basis for studies of the early phase of the Nubian history. This section describes the initial results of these studies and comprises mainly a preliminary classification of the A-Group pottery from the actual region.

1. The A-Group pottery

The main part of the finds from the large cemetery and the smaller groups of graves mentioned above, consists of A-Group pottery from the un plundered graves. Table I shows the type groups of the pottery, their distribution among the graves and the relationship between the wares and the types which have been classified separately.

*The A-Group wares.* As long as our knowledge of the potter’s working methods in the early periods of the history of ancient Nubia is based mainly on a study of the finished product, our analysis of the wares must remain rather theoretical, dealing more with clear differences than with technical details. This is probably the main reason why so few thorough classifications of the A-Group (and C-Group) wares have been carried out.53

However, from the technical point of view, we may divide the A-Group wares into four main groups:

I. Wares with black fracture, black, often polished inside; light red or yellow, often red polished outside; sometimes irregular or thin black top (Classes 1–4, below).

II. ‘Biscuit’ wares with black fracture and homogeneous light red or yellow surface slip, often haematite polished (Classes 5–6).

III. Hard, red ware, fracture and surface homogeneous, often pebble polished (Class 7).

IV. Reddish-pink or greyish, coarse, often sandy ware with smooth, unpolished surface (Classes 8–9).

Within I and II of these main groups, there are several clear differences between a common locally made utility ware and a finer, probably ‘factory’54 made, Nubian ware. Group IV includes a common Egyptian utility ware (see Types A VIII and A IX below).

53 The only previous classification of the A-Group wares is made by Steindoff, op. cit., I, pp. 24 ff. This is referred to in the text as ANIBA A, B, etc.

54 ‘Factory’ ware signifies here a product made for trade by certain workshops within a certain region.
KUSH

The main groups have been divided altogether into nine classes as follows:

Class 1. Black mouthed, red-yellow ware. Interior black polished, exterior red polished, often rippled. Fabric rather firm. Thickness 4 to 9 mm. ANIBA B.

Class 2. Light red or yellow, coarse ware with uneven black top. Interior black, pebble polished, exterior partly haematite polished, partly incised, often black spotted. Fabric rather porous, with calcareous strains. Thickness c. 10 mm.

Class 3. Yellow, coarse ware. Interior black polished, exterior haematite polished. Fabric rather firm and homogeneous. Thickness 3 to 4 mm.

Class 4. Very thin, yellow ware, with black fracture, outside surface with very smooth slip. Inside black highly polished, sometimes slightly ground beneath the rim. Outside usually decorated with red haematite and highly polished. Fabric rather firm and brittle. Thickness 2 mm. This ware, which is a typical ‘factory’ product, probably of Nubian provenience, is known as the ‘variegated haematitic ware’. ANIBA G.

Class 5. Light red or greyish-brown ‘biscuit’ ware, with smooth, often black spotted surface and black fracture. Fabric rather firm, slightly porous. Thickness 4 to 5 mm. Outside and inside light red, coarse (a); greyish-brown, coarse or polished (b); or light red with haematite polish (c). ANIBA A and C.


Class 7. Light red or brownish-red ware, fracture and surface homogeneous. Outside and inside usually pebble polished with stripes vertical from rim to base and horizontal beneath the rim. Fabric hard and smooth. Thickness 5 to 6 mm.


The classification of forms. The A-Group collection from Gezira Dabarosa is too small to make a detailed analysis justified, but big enough to be the basis for a preliminary classification. On the whole it comprehends a relatively

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55 Griffith, LAAA, viii, p. 8.  
56 See note 54.  
57 See note 72.  
58 See note 72.
diversified type register of both the utility and fancy vessels which the Nubian potters produced and the pots which were imported into Nubia from Egypt. A comparison between this collection and the material from the A-Group cemeteries in Faras and Lower Nubia shows a close relationship with no distinct local variants. A few types, however, known from previous classifications, have not been found in the Gezira Dabarosa region. Among them are the Egyptian wavy-handled jars of which several examples have been recorded in Nubia.

The A-Group pottery has been classified as follows (see Table I):

**Type A I.** Deep bowls with rounded base. Rim erect or slightly curved inwards. All the bowls found in this region are of ware, Class 5c. Sherds of Class 1 occurred on the surface in site 6-G-18 and might be assigned to B.T. (or Black mouthed) R.P. bowls common in A-Group cemeteries in Lower Nubia.

**Type A II.** Small bowls and cups of conical shape. Rim normally curved inwards, base pointed or slightly rounded. Ware: Classes 3 and 5.

a. (o) Bowl, undecorated, with slightly rounded base. Ware: Class 3—(i) Bowl, decorated with impressed or incised patterns in imitation basket work below the rim and on the upper part of the body. Ware: Class 5b. This variant occurs quite frequently in Faras and Lower Nubia (Plate XI, b).

b. Small cups, probably drinking cups. Inside often polished. Ware: Class 5a and 5c. A very common utility type throughout Nubia, normally placed close to the dead.

**Type A III.** Big, conical bowls, usually with pointed or dimpled base (a); or more uncommonly, with pointed base and straight body (b). They are normally of the thin, highly polished ware, Class 4. These are decorated on the outside, usually with a geometric design, sometimes with conventionalized imitation basket work, covering the whole body (Plate XI, a). One bowl with skilfully executed imitation basket work has a twin from Faras, now in Khartoum Museum. All these bowls, which represent the peak of the A-Group pottery, occur only in limited parts of Lower Nubia, in Faras, on the west bank south of Faras and in the Archaic cemetery at Gemmae East. They seem to be more

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60 Griffith, op. cit., pl. iii, Type 10–11; Firth, *ASN*, 1910–11, fig. III.
63 Ibid., p. 9, pl. v : g; Steindorff, op. cit., p. 25, pl. 77 : 1–5.
64 Griffith, op. cit., pl. iii, Types 24 and 27. 65 Kh. 736.
66 Firth, *ASN*, 1908–9, ii, pl. 46, a–b; Ibid., 1910–11, pl. 19, a–b; Griffith, op. cit., pl. iv : 15–17; Steindorff, op. cit., i, pl. 77 : 22–3; Emery-Kirwan, op. cit., p. 499, Type XIIa–b; Bates-Dunham, *Excavations at Gemmae*, pl. ix: 1; Verwers, pp. 24 and 29, above.
abundant in the southern part of the region between the First and Second Cataracts. Their limited distribution and high quality and their similarity in ware, shape, finish and decoration point to a common provenience, perhaps one, or a few closely related Nubian workshops.

A variant of a of the same conical shape and size, but of different ware, Class 3, was found in site 6–G–18. It is not decorated, but highly polished, and might be a local imitation of the finer decorated bowls (see Table I).

Type A IV. Saucers and open bowls.

a. Saucers and shallow, open bowls. Most of them are undecorated, shallow bowls (a o on Table I) of ware Class 5a–5b. A few are of ware Class 5c and decorated on the inside with haematite in a geometric design (a 2 on Table I).

b. Deeper bowls with rounded base. One of them is of ware Class 5a and undecorated. Two others are of the finer ware Class 6. One of these is decorated on the inside below the rim with geometric patterns in haematite (Plate XI, a).\(^{67}\) This bowl seems to have the same provenience as the conical decorated bowls of Type III (see above).

Type A V. Dishes.

a. Big dishes with rounded base and squared edge. They occur in pairs in the graves excavated in site 6–G–18. Ware: Class 5c. They are sometimes decorated with irregular lines and stripes of haematite, mostly on the inside.\(^{68}\)

b. Smaller dishes with dimpled base and rounded rim top. Ware: Class 7. Normally decoratively polished with a pebble on both the inside and outside. They are rather common in the A-Group region.\(^{69}\)

Type A VI. Small jar with rounded base and body; rim curved inwards. The rim top is squared. This vessel is decorated with horizontal rows of vertical stripes in basket work pattern, haematite polished and coarse, with line impressions alternately (Plate XI, b). Ware: Class 2. This type occurs in several examples in Faras and Lower Nubia.\(^{70}\)

Type A VII. Small jar with rounded base and body; rim curved inwards. Ware: Class 5a. Nubian utility pot, only one example found in site 6–G–18.\(^{71}\)

\(^{67}\) Cf. Firth, *ASN*, 1910–11, pl. 20, b; Griffith, op. cit., pl. v: 4.

\(^{68}\) Griffith, op. cit., p. 8.

\(^{69}\) Cf. Steindorff, op. cit., 1, pl. 77: 15; Reisner, *ASN*, 1907–8, II, pl. 61 a 9.

\(^{70}\) Firth, *ASN*, 1908–9, II, pl. 46 c 4; Griffith, op. cit., p. 9, pl. v: 1.

\(^{71}\) Griffith, op. cit., pl. iii, Type 22.
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**Table 1. Gezira Dabarosa. The A-Group Pottery**
Type A VIII. Big jars with high shoulder, ring-shaped mouth and flat base (a) or pointed base (b). Ware: Classes 8 and 9. They were probably imported into the Nubian region from Egypt, where they occur in the first two dynasties. In Egypt they are known as wine or beer jars, but they might, of course, have been used for different purposes in Nubia. In one jar of this type (6–G–18, grave 39) c. 1 hg. of fragments of unidentified bones were found. Some examples have potmarks incised on the shoulder. A model of the bigger jars was found in site 6–G–16 (grave 3). It is of ware Class 7, pebble polished outside.

Type A IX. Smaller jars, normally with high shoulder, short neck, ring-shaped mouth and flat base. Ware: Class 8. Probably imported from Egypt.

2. The C-Group Pottery

As the C-Group pottery from this region has been recovered from plundered graves, a few pots only are preserved and the rest of the material consists of sherds, often shapeless. On the whole the various types of forms and wares, which are known previously from the Nubian region are represented. A few uncommon variants of the decorated pottery occur, however, which may point to local differences in the southern C-Group culture apart from Egyptian Nubia (see PLATE XII, a).

B.T.R.P. ware was frequent both in grave pits and surface layers in site 6–G–18. It occurred, too, in site 6–G–14. A few bowls were found in the former site with rounded bases and with rims slightly turned inwards.

Only two bowls of B.P. incised ware were discovered in 6–G–18 (graves 17 and 29). On the former the white fill is very well preserved all over the body, which is decorated with hatched triangles and rhombs (PLATE XII, a). The latter, found north-east of grave 29, has a stamped triangular pattern (dog-tooth) between vertical, B.P. bands in an uncommon design (PLATE XII, a). (Cf. Säve-Söderbergh, report below, p. 90, PLATE XXIV, a).

A combination of B.T.R.P. ware and the decoration of the B.P. incised bowls occurred on a few vessels from site 6–G–18. The fabric is similar to the B.T. ware. The inside is black, coarse or slightly polished; the outside is partly R.P. in accordance with the decoration. The latter consists of rhombs or

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72 Junker, Turah, pl. xl; Mace, The Early Dynastic Cemeteries of Naga-Ed-Der, vol. 2, pl. 49; Reisner, ASN, 1907–8, 1, fig. 299; Griffith, op. cit., pl. iii, Types 1–4; Emery-Kirwan, op. cit., p. 499, pl. 33.
73 One of these is a deeply incised, fish-shaped mark.
74 Griffith, op. cit., pl. iii, Type 7. 
75 Cf. Steindorff, op. cit., 1, pl. 53.
76 Ibid., pl. 43 : 8. 
77 Firth, ASN, 1909–10, pls. 30, c and 31, a–c.
triangular impressions on the rim, circular stamps covering the body, or stripes, triangles and squares which are dotted with the point of a needle, a peg or a finger-nail (Plate XII, a). Two R.P. sherds with an uncommon ‘chain ornament’ might originate from the same type of bowls.78

The straw-tempered coarse ‘Nubian’ ware was frequent in site 6-G-18 and occurred also in site 6-G-12. Only a couple of small vessels with rounded bodies and cylindrical and S-shaped neck respectively, can be assigned to this group.79

In site 6-G-18 a vessel with rounded base and mouth with a brim was found. The surface is red-washed and smooth.80 Another small vessel of black coarse ware from the surface of site 6-G-18 has a collar round the neck (Plate XII, b).

Wheel-made pots were scarce. From 6-G-18 came two vessels: a bowl of light red, soft ware with a slightly pointed base81 and a jar of light brown ware with rounded base and short neck.82 Sherds of Qena-ware were discovered in a few graves only and on the surface in site 6-G-18. In 6-G-20 half of a bowl of a greyish wheel-made ware, similar to the common Qena-ware, was found.83

3. Other finds (catalogue)

Jewellery, palettes and stone implements, such as grinders and millers, were found mostly in the unplundered A-Group graves. The C-Group material of this kind consists of beads, hair clips and bracelets, the greater part found in site 6-G-18.

Beads. A-Group: A few rod-shaped of carnelian, several small, ring-shaped of carnelian, faience and shell.—C-Group: Most frequent are small ring-shaped of blue-green faience or shell; several ring-shaped of carnelian; a few rod-shaped of faience.

Pendants. A-Group: From site 6-G-18, grave 38: fish-shaped pendants, twelve of red-orange carnelian, one of chalcedony (Plate XII, b). The shape is reminiscent of a dolphin. The tails have a peculiar fork-shaped design.84 Seven of the pendants are of better quality than the rest in design and finish. Length, 30 to 37 mm. From site 6-G-18, grave 42B: Drop-shaped pendants of carnelian and faience (Plate XII, b).85

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78 Griffith, op. cit., pl. xii: 17. This sherd from Faras is of B.P. ware.
79 Steindorff, op. cit., 1, pl. 55: 16 and 3 respectively.
80 Ibid., pl. 62: 8. 81 Ibid., pl. 66: 6. 82 Ibid., pl. 58: 18.
83 Ibid., pl. 64: 38 (shape).
84 Reisner, ASN, 1907-8, 11, pl. 70, a: 6 and 11.
85 Ibid., pl. 70, a: 6.
KUSH

Bracelets and finger-rings. A-Group: Bracelets and one anklet of ivory, a few flat with oval section. From site 6-G-18, grave 42A several circular (nine around each wrist of the skeleton) with flat inside and convex outside and with incised patterns (Plate XII, b).—C-Group: Bracelets of ivory, normally oval, with open ends and rounded section. Finger-rings of ivory with square section.


Palettes. A-Group: A few rhomboid of quartz, one rectangular of slate, the latter from site 6-G-16.

Stone implements. A-Group: A few oval grinders and mullers from site 6-G-18. One muller from grave 42B (see Plate x, a) of unidentified material, possibly soapstone. It has a flat base and rounded body. One quartz axe-head was discovered in site 6-G-18, grave 41.

A Note on the Cattle Skulls Excavated at Faras

by H. T. B. HALL, B.V.Sc.

Four skulls have been submitted for examination from the excavations of the C-Group graves at Faras. Their identification is as follows:

1. C 16E: I
2. C 16E: II
3. C 16E: IV
4. C 18 NE.

None of the skulls is complete. In 1, 2 and 4, in fact, only the frontal, occipital, parietal and squamous temporals are present in part or in whole. In the case of no. 3 the base of the horn cores and the connecting piece of the frontal bone only is available.

86 Steindorff, op. cit., i, pl. 32: 5 and 7.
87 Ibid., pl. 32: 9 and 16.
88 Ibid., pl. 32: 18, 20-3.
89 Firth, ASN, 1910-11, pl. 21, d: 5, 7 and 11; Steindorff, op. cit., i, pl. 78.
91 Firth, ASN, 1910-11, pl. 20, g: 2.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

In general the four, where there is material for comparison, have similar characteristics; where there is an exception to this rule, the exception is noted.

In the following description, characteristics are compared with the present day Zebu and Sanga. This is specifically to allow for a possible classification of the material by comparison with known types of animals from adjacent localities, and which accords with the primary classification of Mason and Maule.¹

DESCRIPTION

**Frontal aspect**

The general shape is broad and flat, the area bounded by the orbital arches, the frontal prominence and the two lateral edges of the frontal bone being rectangular.

Posterally the frontal eminence is straight in profile, being only slightly raised above the nuchal eminence. The slight elevation gives a ‘coronet’ appearance. There is a slight depression in the centre of the ‘coronet’.

The parietal bone is just visible.

Anteriorly, there is a deep depression between the orbital arches, more pronounced in nos. 2 and 4.

The interfrontal suture is raised posteriory, and bifid, this being more pronounced in no. 1. Anteriorly the ridge disappears, and in nos. 1 and 2 the suture is below the level of the rest of the frontal bone.

The supra-orbital groove is wide and deep, with two separate foramina of almost equal size. The edges of the groove are well marked and rounded.

**Lateral aspect**

The temporal fossa is very wide, deep and spacious.

The fronto-parietal suture runs forward in the fossa to the edge of the optic cavity.

**Caudal aspect**

The parietal bone contains a marked depression (within the ‘coronet’).

**Horn cores**

The right horn core is almost lateral in no. 4 (the left is missing); the cores are upright in no. 2, and midway between upright and lateral in no. 3. In no. 1 the right core is also midway between upright and lateral, while the left is lateral.

Nos. 1, 2 and 3, from measurements, show that the left horn core points forward and downward, while the right points forward and upward.

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KUSH

Measurements of no. 1, taken horizontally from a point on the vertical projection of the median line of the skull and 4.0 cm. above the frontal eminence, give the distance to the surface of the horn-core on the left as 24.5 cm. and on the right 15.0 cm. Measurements on a line parallel to the front plane and 4.0 cm. in front of it, give the distance to the left horn core as 20.5 cm. and to the right horn core as 23.5 cm.

Similar measurements of no. 2 from the frontal plane give the distances as 12.5 cm. to the left horn core and 15.5 cm. to the right horn core, and on no. 3, 13.0 cm. to the left and 20.0 cm. to the right. Insufficient material remains on nos. 2 and 3 to give reliable measurements from the vertical projection of the median line.

The neck of the cores in all four specimens is clearly defined and stalk-like; the 'grain' is roughly parallel to the axis, but irregular. There are clearly defined flutings up to 3.0 mm. in depth. The cores are slightly oval in section, the ratio of short diameter to long diameter being 0.8.

Horn length

An attempt has been made to estimate the probable length of the horns from comparison with modern bovine horns.

Measurements of lengths of modern horns and the corresponding horn cores have shown, for seven specimens, that the latter is 77 per cent of the former. Measurements of core circumference have been plotted against core lengths at 10.0 cm. intervals from base to tip, and from the resulting graph the probable lengths of the antique cores have been obtained from their equivalent circumferences for as many 10-cm. lengths as are available using the curve comparatively.

From these measurements and allowing for the length of the core being 77 per cent of the length of the horn, the following horn lengths are obtained:

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Conclusions

From the evidence available, the skulls appear to be from animals descended from *Bos primigenius* Hahni n.s. *Hilzheimer* (the giant horned wild ox of the Nile Valley) although not necessarily pure descendants of the breed described (according to Curson and Epstein²) by Hilzheimer.

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a. SKULL NO. 1 (FRONT VIEW)

b. SKULL NO. 1 (SIDE VIEW)
a. SKULL NO. 2 (FRONT VIEW)

b. SKULL NO. 2 (SIDE VIEW)
They appear identical with the Hamitic Longhorn described by Curson and Epstein, and it would appear reasonable to assume that they are also identical with the long-horned cattle *Bos africanus* domesticated by the Egyptians.3

In size of horn they do not compare with present-day Nilotic Sangas of the Aliab Dinka, the horns of which may be 150 cm. in length but they are comparable with the cattle of the Dinka of the Aweil district (up to 75 cm.). The latter horns are, however, thicker at the base than the horns which covered the cores of the skulls under study. These would have been much more slender in comparison.

Perhaps the most important characteristic of these skulls is the curve of the horn cores in nos. 1, 2 and 3. This shows that the left horn must have been trained forward and downward.

It is noteworthy that Hamitic longhorns with bent horns, usually the left, are depicted in inscriptions of the vth,4 viith5 and xiii6 Dynasties of Egypt, as well as the xxvth7 Dynasty which ruled from Napata. In the xxvth Dynasty, the inscription at Nuri has the right horn downward. In addition, at Meroe the mortuary chapel of one of the pyramids8 has a representation of a group of cattle, one of which has the left horn depicted in a forward and downward position.

At the present time it is a widespread custom of the Nilotic inhabitants of the Southern Sudan to train the left horn downward, of bulls which are specially selected for their appearance. They believe that this custom has come down to them from a very early period. It is believed that this is due to early Egyptian influence.9

It is apparent that as well as a breed similarity in cattle there is this custom similarity between the vth, viith, xiii and xxvth Dynasties, the Meroitic kingdom, the C-Group people and the Nilotics of Southern Sudan.

As the Meroitic Kingdom extended southward at least to the present Nilotic territories, it may be considered that the introduction of Hamitic Longhorn blood10 in the creation of the present-day Sangas, could have taken place by direct migration southward along the Nile Valley.

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3 Lucas, ‘Some Egyptian Connections with Sudan Agriculture’, *Agric. in the Sudan*, ed. Tothill (1952).
4 Davies, *The Mastaba of Ptahhetep and Akhethetep at Saqqarah*, vol. 1, pls. iii and xxi. *ASN; LD*, ii, pl. 70.
5 Weigall and von Bissing, *Die Mastaba des Gen-ni-Kai*, i, pl. xi.
6 Blackmann, *The Rock Tombs of Meir*, i, pls. ix, x.
7 Chapman and Dunham, ‘Decorated Chapels of the Meroitic Pyramids at Meroe and Barkal’, *RCK*, iii, pl. 15.
8 *LD*, v, pl. 29, b. Südwand, Begerauich, Pyramidengruppe A, Pyr. 10 (Budge, *Egyptian Sudan* (1907), Pyramid. No. 11).
Pottery Kiln Excavations
by William Y. Adams

Early in 1960, when the Sudan Antiquities Service first began the systematic exploration of the west bank of the Nile, several months were devoted to the excavation of the pottery kiln site at Faras West (24-E-21). This concentration of effort was prompted in part by the fact that the site was at that time the only one of its kind known in Nubia. However, the second season’s survey on the west bank quickly revealed that pottery kilns are by no means an uncommon archaeological feature, and that they are not confined to the Christian period. Early in November 1960 a group of kilns was located at Serra West, and as the season progressed additional kiln sites came to light at Debeira East, Argin, Gezira Dabarosa, Abkanarti, and Gemai West. South of the Second Cataract, other kilns were noted as far south as Old Dongola.

In spite of this unexpected proliferation of sites, the kilns have continued to merit detailed attention in view of the wealth of material and information which have accrued from the Faras excavations. Accordingly a special effort was made to excavate extensively several of the sites which were discovered during the 1960-1 campaign. The writer conducted the investigation of the kiln sites at Serra West, Debeira East, Argin and Mugufil, while a single kiln at Gezira Dabarosa was excavated by Mr G. J. Verwers.

In general, fortune favoured these undertakings to a remarkable degree. The sites proved to be well distributed in time, ranging from Meroitic to the end of the Christian period. The sites at Debeira East and Serra West, in particular, had both been in use for considerable periods of time. The former dated originally from the X-Group period and the latter from early Christian times. The stratigraphic sequences of pottery which they yielded did not coincide, but overlapped with one another and with the sequence previously found at Faras. Collectively, the pottery sequences from the three sites span the entire period from classic X-Group to at least the middle of the Christian era, and have permitted a detailed reconstruction of the stylistic evolution of Nubian pottery during that time. In addition, the kiln at Argin proved to be of Meroitic age, while that at Mugufil dated from the very end of the Christian period. These two sites thus extend the length of time for which Nubian pottery kilns are known to at least 1,000 years.

The five kiln sites investigated during the second season of the West Bank Survey will be discussed below in historical order, rather than in the order in which they were investigated. Locations of the sites north of Gemai are shown in Fig. 1.

1 See Kush ix, pp. 30-43. 2 See p. 30, above. 3 See pp. 285-7, below.
Fig. 2. MAP SHOWING POTTERY KILN SITES IN THE WADI HALFA AREA. NAMES OF EXCAVATED SITES UNDERLINED
KUSH

THE MEROITIC KILN AT ARGIN (6-B-17)

In the southern part of the village of Argin, a long, low mound of sand rising among cultivated fields close to the Nile marks the location of a Meroitic settlement of considerable size (6-B-8). A heavy concentration of ash, charcoal and burned mud near its northern limit revealed the presence of a single kiln.

Comparatively little of the structure was preserved. It proved upon excavation to be a cylindrical shell of mud brick masonry with an inside diameter of 130 cm., standing to a height of less than 50 cm. (Plate XVI, a). The floor was an extremely dense pavement of burned clay, exceeding 35 cm. in thickness, and consisted of several distinct layers which were probably added at different times by way of reinforcement. The earliest and thickest layer underlay and supported the walls, while later layers had served to raise the floor level within the walls until it was 25 cm. higher than the corresponding outside level.

Unlike the kilns of later periods, the Argin structure was clearly situated entirely above the ground. The outside ground surface contemporaneous with the kiln was at the same level as the original floor within, and was identified by a dense accumulation of ash and charcoal. At several places the base of the kiln wall, which had undoubtedly weakened as a result of the intense heat generated by repeated firings, had been reinforced by placing large stone blocks and masses of clay mortar against it. Raising the floor level within presumably served the same purpose.

Not enough of the Argin kiln remained to permit a very precise reconstruction of its original form. It could have been either a single or a double chamber affair, with or without domed roof. In that part of the wall which remained there was no suggestion of any lateral aperture which, on the analogy of later kilns, would have identified the furnace as opposed to the firing chamber. All that can be said of pottery firing in the Meroitic period as a result of the Argin excavation is that cylindrical kilns of roughly the same diameter as those found in X-Group and Christian times were in use. Unlike the latter, however, the Argin model was situated entirely above the ground.

The ceramic product of the Argin kiln could not be identified with certainty. There were none of the unfired or overfired and rejected pieces which are normally found in quantity at kiln sites. For this reason it cannot even be established unequivocally that the site is of Meroitic age. The presumption of its origin is based upon its association with a large Meroitic settlement; on the large number of Meroitic sherds incorporated in its mortar and floor, and found around it; and on the absence of any later sherds in the vicinity. The most common ceramic product found around the kiln and in the surrounding area is the familiar Meroitic buff ware decorated with broad red and black bands.6

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4 Reported on p. 44, above.
5 For a detailed description of this kiln type see below and FIG. 2.
6 This ware has not been described as such, although occasional examples are illustrated in a number of publications dealing with Meroitic cemeteries.
a. SERRA WEST: EARLY CHRISTIAN KILN. STOKE-HOLE AT RIGHT; DRYING BIN AT LEFT

b. MUGUFIL: LATE CHRISTIAN KILN SITE. NOTE CLAY PITS IN FOREGROUND
ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY ON THE WEST BANK OF THE NILE

THE X-GROUP KILN AT GEZIRA DABAROSA (6-G-6)\(^7\)

At the X-Group and early Christian village site of Gezira Dabarosa\(^8\) a single pottery kiln was found which is believed to belong to the earliest period of occupation. It is one of two cylindrical kilns which have been found fully intact out of a total of twenty-four such structures investigated to date, the other being Kiln 3 at Faras.\(^9\)

The Gezira Dabarosa kiln corresponds in every detail of size and construction to those which were previously found at Faras. It is a tall cylinder of mud brick divided into a lower furnace chamber and an upper firing chamber. The lower part of the furnace chamber is dug below ground level, while the upper part is covered by a brick dome which supports the chamber above. Both the dome and the firing chamber are enclosed within a circular shell wall. A series of some twenty-five small round flues carried hot air upward through the domed ceiling of the furnace chamber and into the firing chamber above. The furnace was entered through a rectangular stoke-hole at one side just above the outside ground level. The firing chamber was open at the top and had no lateral entrance.

Like most others of its kind, the Dabarosa kiln had required reinforcement at least once after its original construction.\(^10\) Repeated firings undoubtedly weakened the shell wall to such an extent that an additional encircling wall had to be built around the upper part of it, its foundation resting upon the thick layer of trash which had accumulated around the original structure in the interval since its first construction. At the same time the stoke-hole was reinforced and extended outward from the furnace. The same successive structural modifications were found in the cylindrical kilns both at Serra and at Faras.

Notwithstanding the eventual need for reinforcement, the Dabarosa kiln clearly never developed the extreme temperatures evidenced by some other structures of the same type. The original shell wall, which was not over 30 cm. thick, was fired a bright red only around its inner surface, whereas in some other kilns walls as thick as 50 cm. were fired red all the way through. This and the relatively small quantity of ash and slag accumulated in the vicinity would seem to suggest that the Dabarosa kiln was not used very much or very frequently. However, a considerable portion of the adjacent deposit was not fully excavated.

As at Argin, there was little or no ceramic refuse which could be definitely identified as the product or by-product of the Dabarosa kiln. If, as its stratigraphic position suggests, it belongs to an early period of occupation at Dabarosa village, then it may be surmised that the structure was used in the manufacture

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\(^7\) This structure was excavated by Mr G. J. Verwers in the course of his investigation of the village site 6-G-6, reported in previous pages. Permission to consult his field notes, upon which the following description is based, is gratefully acknowledged.

\(^8\) Reported on pp. 30–3, above.

\(^9\) See Kush IX, p. 33, and FIG. 2, below.

\(^10\) See Kush IX, p. 33.
KUSH

of the Classic and Modified X-Group redwares\(^{11}\) which were found in profusion at the site.

**THE X-GROUP AND EARLY CHRISTIAN KILNS AT DEBEIRA EAST**

*(24-R-23)*\(^{12}\)

On the broad floodplain at Debeira East, not far from the bank of the Nile, rises a small, steep-sided mound known locally as Kom Abu Aisha. Here a cluster of structural remains and a dense accumulation of refuse have helped to preserve an old land surface, some 3 m. higher than the surrounding fields, which has elsewhere been carried entirely away by centuries of flooding. The mound at its present limits measures roughly 30 m. long by 15 m. wide, but it has been considerably larger within recent memory. Its entire southern half is said to have been carried away by the flood of 1946.

Surface indications showed clearly that the Debeira mound had been a pottery-making centre of considerable importance. Immediately below the surface excavation revealed the remains of a small circular kiln, of which only the lowermost part of the furnace chamber remained intact. The structure belonged to a late period of occupation, for it was built upon rubbish deposits overlying an earlier group of remains which were encountered about 1 m. below.

The original Debeira kiln site, or as much of it as had survived several centuries of floods, comprised a cluster of five large circular kilns and one smaller kiln, all occupying an area less than 6 m. square. The disposition of these structures is shown in Fig. 3. Although found in very dilapidated condition, there could be no question that every one of the large kilns was of the same cylindrical, double-chamber plan as the specimens previously found at Faras and Gezira Dabarasa (Fig. 2). The furnace chambers were dug approximately 1 m. below ground level, with slightly converging sides lined with brick masonry, and were roofed over with a multiple-arch dome supporting the upper chamber. In only two cases was any part of the firing (upper) chamber preserved, but in every kiln the buttresses which supported the furnace dome were clearly evident. Access to the furnace in each case was via a rather small lateral stoke-hole just above the outside ground level, or about 1 m. above the floor of the furnace. The large kilns varied considerably in size, the inside diameters ranging from

\(^{11}\) See, e.g., Emery and Kirwan, *The Royal Cemeteries of Ballana and Qustul*, 1, p. 387; II, pls. 112–14; and p. 272, below. The ware names employed here are those which have been provisionally assigned in the study of Christian pottery which is now in progress, and are set forth elsewhere in this journal (pp. 245–88).

\(^{12}\) This site was originally discovered by members of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition, and lies within the area granted to them for exploration by the Commissioner for Archaeology. I am greatly indebted to the leaders of the expedition, Profs. C. F. Meinander and T. Säve-Söderbergh, for calling my attention to the site and for generously granting me permission to dig it.
Fig. 2. TYPICAL DOUBLE-CHAMBER CYLINDRICAL KILN (KILN 3 AT FARAS WEST)
   a, PROJECTION; b, PLAN; c, SECTION
KUSH

100 to 175 cm. In three cases where they could be measured, the heights of the furnace chambers were 115, 125 and 180 cm. The shell wall, a regular cylinder of mud brick masonry enclosing the upper part of each kiln, varied in thickness from 20 to 40 cm.

The small kiln at Debeira (Kiln 7, FIG. 3) was quite possibly built on the same plan as its larger neighbours, although its type could not be reconstructed from the rather meagre remains. The furnace chamber had an average diameter of 55 cm.

The level ground between and around the Debeira kilns was originally divided off into separate rectangular working spaces by low partitions of mud brick which probably never exceeded 40 cm. in height (see FIG. 3 and PLATE XVI, b). They were so situated that each kiln had its own adjoining work area. The partition walls clearly postdated the kilns themselves, as they abutted against the shell walls in several cases. The uniformity of construction and of the ground level suggests that all of the six original kilns were built nearly at the same time, and that the partition walls were added very shortly afterward.

After a period of time the original ground level was covered by a deep accumulation of trash which swallowed up the partition walls, and a new working surface was developed some 40 cm. above the original. It was not partitioned like its predecessor. At this time several of the kiln structures required reinforcement, either by buttressing or by increasing the thickness of the shell wall. The largest kiln was, however, abandoned after a comparatively short period, and was then filled with refuse. Still later two others were also abandoned, and subsequently filled with trash. The final floor level which could be associated with the original group of kilns was some 70 cm. higher than the first one. By this time probably no more than two of the structures remained in use. Still later the single kiln was built which was encountered immediately below the surface in the excavation. This structure rested upon over 1 m. of refuse which entirely covered all of the earlier kilns and occupation levels.

At the beginning, the principal if not the only products of the Debeira kilns were Classic X-Group redware and its companion utility ware, a coarse, unslipped reddish brown product. Many thousands of sherds of the former ware were found, representing almost exclusively fine goblets and other small stemmed vessels characteristic of the X-Group period. Specimens of the larger slipped jars and pots which are commonly found in X-Group graves were notably absent.

X-Group brown utility ware was limited almost entirely to two products: qadus (saqia pots) and ceramic pipe. Both were highly standardized in design and were produced in enormous quantities. The typical forms are described elsewhere in this journal.

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18 See pp. 272 and 275, below. 14 Ibid., p. 251, figs. 7 and 9.
Fig. 3. PLAN OF DEBEIRA EAST KILN SITE AT EARLIEST PERIOD OF USE, SHOWING PARTITION WALLS BETWEEN KILNS
At a somewhat later date were produced Modified X-Group redware and a highly polished plain redware. Both these wares show the influence of imported Byzantine models, and probably mark the very beginning of the Christian era in Nubia. They were perhaps among the last products of the original Debeira kilns.

Also found at the Debeira site, mainly on the surface, were numerous fragments of the Transitional White Ware characteristic of the very early Christian era. Unlike earlier wares, no unfired or overfired specimens could be found to establish beyond doubt the local manufacture of these specimens. It is unlikely that they were produced in the original group of kilns, which had quite probably been abandoned and filled with trash by the time of their introduction. They may possibly be the product of that later kiln of which only a small remnant was found, and which is perhaps the sole survivor of a larger group of structures. At any rate the presence of quantities of Transitional White Ware shows that the Debeira site was still in use, either for pottery making or as a refuse dump, in the early Christian period.

Like the Faras Potteries, the Debeira kiln site yielded enormous quantities of rejected and by-product material associated with pottery manufacture. Fragments of scores of vessels which had broken before or during firing were observed, as well as lumps of partially moulded clay and pigment or slip material.

**THE EARLY CHRISTIAN KILNS AT SERRA WEST (24–N–3)**

The site consists of four separate mounds spread out over a distance of half a kilometre in the village of Serra West. Like the Debeira site they are small remnants of an old land surface, considerably higher than the present one, which have been preserved from destruction by the dense accumulation of ash, slag and sherds which covers them. Three of the Serra mounds were trenched during the 1960–1 season, resulting in the discovery of six kilns.

Mound 1, at the south end of the site, contained three kilns, of which two were contemporaneous while a third, rather smaller model had been built at a later date upon an accumulation of refuse from the former two. Mound 2 was by far the largest of the three excavated, measuring about 60×40 m. with a maximum height in excess of 6 m. Near its summit were found the remains of two small kilns which seem quite insufficient to account for the quantity of ash and ceramic refuse covering the mound. Further trenching would probably have revealed additional structures, perhaps at a greater depth below the surface. Mound 3, a small mound at the north, contained a single large kiln (PLATE XVII, a).

The Serra kilns were clearly of the same cylindrical, double-chamber plan (FIG. 2) and the same general size as those at Faras, Debeira, and Gezira Dabarosa,

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16 p. 272, below. 18 p. 272, below. 17 p. 273, below. 18 One of the mounds was discovered and reported by the Sudan Antiquities Service survey of 1955–6.
although so much damaged that in no case was any portion of the upper chamber preserved. The characteristic buttresses which supported the arched canopy over the furnace chamber (see Plate XVII, a) were, however, present to help identify the original form. Like the Faras kilns, and unlike those at Debeira and Gezira Dabarosa, several of the Serra kilns had a sloping, tunnel-like structure, a metre or more in length, leading to the stoke-hole aperture. As at Faras these structures had several times been reinforced and extended as the accumulation of ash and debris around the kilns increased. Another feature common also at Faras was a bin, apparently for drying newly turned pots, built against the outside wall of one of the kilns (see Plate XVII, a) so as to take advantage of the heat radiated during firing.\(^{19}\) Very little of the outside occupation surface associated with the Serra kilns was exposed, but in at least one case there was a low partition, reminiscent of those found at Debeira, dividing the working space between two neighbouring kilns.

The refuse deposits at Mounds 1 and 2 exceeded 1 m. in depth and consisted of a number of distinct layers of ash and sherds. However, there was no significant difference between the material from the bottom and from the top of the deposit. On the other hand the Serra site exhibited a degree of ‘horizontal stratigraphy’ in that Mound 3 appeared to be slightly later in date than the other two. This was established by a comparison of the pottery collections from the three mounds with the sequences obtained at Faras during the previous campaign.\(^{20}\)

A considerable variety of pottery was produced at all the Serra kilns. The finer wares belong predominantly to the ‘transitional complex’ of simply decorated red and white wares which were found also in the lowest levels at the Faras site.\(^{21}\) Those occurring most frequently have been designated as Transitional White Ware, Transitional Red-Orange Ware, and Transitional Soft Red Ware.\(^{22}\) All of them were also found in the upper levels of the Debeira and Gezira Dabarosa sites. Also relatively common at Serra was a distinctive very hard, undecorated white ware\(^{23}\) which has not been found in the same quantity at other sites.

Notwithstanding the variety of decorated types, the most abundant product of all the Serra kilns was utility ware. \textit{Saqja} pots were made by the thousands at Mounds 1 and 2, and large storage jars and pots are only slightly less common. All of these vessels belong to a hard, coarse red ware, usually unslipped and not infrequently decorated with bold linear designs done in thin white paint.\(^{24}\) Identical utility ware was found throughout the Faras site and at Mugufil, and seems to be characteristic of the entire Christian period. It is distinct in a number of respects from the rather soft brown X-Group utility ware made at Debeira.

\(^{22}\) See pp. 272-3, below. \(^{23}\) Hard White Ware; see p. 274, below.
\(^{24}\) Christian Red Utility Ware; see p. 275, below.
KUSH

THE LATE CHRISTIAN KILNS AT MUGUFIL (11-L-4)

The site is located on an island in the Nile south of Wadi Halfa, in the ʿmadiya of Saras. It was discovered accidentally in the course of an outing early in 1961. As the island and the whole surrounding area are thickly dotted with habitations of the late Christian period, it was hoped that excavation of the kilns might yield a sequence of pottery from the same era and perhaps extend in time the sequence previously found at Faras.

The Mugufil kilns occupy an eroded, sloping alluvial surface close to the bank of the Nile (PLATE XVII, b). On the landward side they are flanked by a steep rock ridge bearing the traces of numerous stone houses of the Christian period (11-L-3). A short distance to the south is a small expanse of level ground which was formerly cultivated, and an abandoned saqia which once supplied it with water.

Kilns of two different types were found at Mugufil. The two earliest structures were clearly cylindrical double-chamber affairs of the same type as those found in other Christian and X-Group sites, and illustrated in FIG. 2. Once again nothing remained of the upper part of the structures, but their original form could be deduced from the foundations of shell walls and the arch buttresses which had been preserved. Both kilns had seen considerable use and had been reinforced on one or more occasions.

At a late date, the elaborate double-chamber kilns gave way to simple pit kilns dug out of the ground. These were little more than round-bottomed, oval-shaped trenches, 2 to 3 m. long and a little less than 1 m. wide, with a depth of from 50 cm. to 1 m. There was no permanent superstructure and no masonry lining below the ground. Each pit kiln had a narrow sloping ramp extending upward from one end, reminiscent of the stoke-holes of earlier kilns.

The exact manner of use of the pit kilns is uncertain. Pots may have rested directly upon burning coals within the kiln, or upon some sort of temporary platform laid across the top at ground level. The need for a special stoke-hole-like aperture at one end suggests the latter method of employment. That the pit kilns postdated the cylindrical kilns is indicated by the fact that one cylindrical kiln had in the end evolved into a pit kiln, its original furnace chamber having been largely filled with ash and mud. What remained of the chamber was then extended in two directions by cutting through and beyond the original masonry shell wall, which was left standing only at the sides. This superposition is shown in FIG. 4. Two other pit kilns were found in the immediate vicinity of the cylindrical kilns. The entire site occupied no more than 100 square m.

All around the Mugufil kilns, the sloping ground was deeply pitted where clay had been dug to make pots (see PLATE XVII, b). The largest clay pit was over

25 Shown on the printed map (Sheet 35-I, Africa 1 : 250,000 series) as Mugufmi I, but called Mugufil by its inhabitants.
Fig. 4. SUPERPOSITION OF LATE PIT KILN OVER EARLIER CYLINDRICAL KILN AT MUGUFIL
KUSH

3 m. in diameter and nearly 1 m. deep. Small, irregular ditches some 15 cm. wide led to and from several of the pits. They had apparently served both to bring water to mix clay and to direct any overflow away from the kiln structures. Probably the ultimate source of water was the abandoned *saqia* a short distance to the south, one of whose major laterals could be seen passing close to the upper end of the site.

The pottery found at Mugufil was something of a disappointment. Throughout its history the site was obviously devoted largely to the manufacture of *saqia* pots of coarse red ware which are hardly distinguishable from those made centuries earlier at Faras and Serra. There can be little doubt that they were intended for use upon the neighbouring *saqia*, for the numerous sherds picked up upon its slopes are identical in every particular. The only other material found in any quantity at the Mugufil kilns was the crude hand-made utility ware, almost certainly produced by women, which has hardly varied from Meroitic to modern times. Although present in nearly all X-Group and Christian sites, it becomes predominant only at the very end of the Christian era.

Only about thirty unmistakably Christian painted sherds were found at Mugufil. They are probably not products of any of the kilns which were excavated, and may not even be contemporaneous, since they could represent downwash from the neighbouring house sites. The Mugufil kilns cannot thus be dated with any certainty. They are tentatively assigned to the end of the Christian period on the basis of their proximity to habitations of the same age, and the similarity of both the earlier kilns and their product to those found at other Christian sites.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS

The kiln excavations of 1960–1 have added considerably to the knowledge which was gained at Faras, and, as is usual in archaeology, have raised plenty of additional questions in the process. They have at all events shown that double-chambered cylindrical pottery kilns were a fairly common feature of Medieval Nubia, and that they had been introduced or developed before the coming of Christianity. This rather elaborate structural form would seem to have been both preceded and followed by simpler models, to judge from the admittedly tenuous evidence from Argin and Mugufil. The fancy kiln is perhaps to be associated with the fancy and abundant pottery which is so prominent a feature of Christian Nubia.

The origin of the kiln design, like that of the pottery, remains to be discovered. It seems unlikely, in view of the perennial cultural backwardness

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26 Christian Red Utility Ware; see p. 275, below.
27 Coarse Domestic Ware; see p. 276, below.
of Nubia, that so sophisticated a structure was a local development. So far, however, similar kilns have not been found in other areas.

More important than the kilns themselves has been the pottery which the sites have yielded. Pottery making on a large scale was, in Nubia, a rather untidy operation, leaving large quantities of waste material which are valuable to the archaeologist. Many of the kilns have had associated with them heaps of neatly stratified debris\(^{29}\) including tens of thousands of potsherds—relics of vessels which broke before and during firing. From this mass of material it has been possible to work out a refined developmental sequence which now covers the whole of the first half of the Christian era.\(^{30}\) The West Bank Survey will, in future seasons, continue to look for and to excavate kiln sites so long as they show any promise of extending this sequence, either forward into the late Christian era or backward into Meroitic times.

\(^{29}\) Cf. Kush IX, Plate IX, a.  
\(^{30}\) See pp. 276–87, below.
Preliminary Report of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition

Archaeological Survey between Faras and Gamai, January–March 1961

by T. Säve-Söderbergh

The Scandinavian Joint Expedition to Sudanese Nubia was organized by the four countries, Denmark, Finland, Norway and Sweden in response to the appeal of Unesco to partake in the international action to save the monuments and archaeological remains of Nubia. Already before this appeal was launched at the request of the Sudan and the UAR, I had the opportunity to study the threatened area and the problems connected with the planned action. During a journey to Nubia in February and March 1960 I was able to visit most of the archaeological sites in the northern part of the Sudan thanks to the never-failing hospitality of the Sudanese authorities. I enjoyed the company of M. Mekhitarian of the Fondation R. Elisabeth, who has published a report on our journey and expressed our gratitude for all help and kindness.1

As a result of these studies and in accordance with a request from Mr Vercoutter, then Commissioner for Archaeology, I recommended that the Scandinavian countries should undertake a survey on the east shore of the Nile from the Egyptian border southwards to Gamai and should also give technical and financial aid to the necessary works in Egyptian Nubia.

On the occasion of the Experts’ meeting in Khartoum and Wadi Halfa in October 1960, this proposal was welcomed also by Sayed Thabit Hassan Thabit, the Commissioner for Archaeology, and was supported by the Danish specialists (Professor Sander-Hansen and Professor Laessoe), sent by the Danish Committee for the Nubian Project to study the proposed programme.

The plans were then accepted by the national Unesco committees of the four Scandinavian countries, and the expedition was financed with special government grants.

Dr C. F. Meinander was appointed Field Director. The other members, besides myself, were: from Denmark Professor J. Laessoe, Mr T. Hansen, Mr H. J. Madsen, from Finland Mr A. Kopisto and Mr G. Donner, from Norway Mr O. Möllerop and Mr R. Utne, and from Sweden Mr B. Schönbäck and Mr T. Rydberg.

1 CdE, xxxvi (1961), pp. 113 ff. My expenses were met by The Swedish Council for Humanistic Research, to which I also wish to express my thanks.
PRELIMINARY REPORT—SCANDINAVIAN JOINT EXPEDITION

Professor Laessøe arrived in Khartoum on 4 January and proceeded to Wadi Halfa where he made the necessary preparations for the expedition. The other members arrived at Wadi Halfa via Cairo on 24 January, bringing the main part of the equipment, including three cars (a fourth car later arrived via Port Sudan, where it was cleared by Professor Laessøe personally).

Two farmhouses in Debeira East (at Nag’ el Leithi) were used as the headquarters of the expedition, and from this base field work started on 27 January and continued to the end of March.

Our indebtedness is gratefully acknowledged for much help and many facilities which Sayed Thabit Hassan Thabit, Commissioner for Archaeology, his colleagues and staff in the Sudan Antiquities Service, and many Sudanese authorities bestowed on the expedition.

THE SURVEY

METHODS AND SPECIAL DIFFICULTIES

The concession of the Scandinavian Joint Expedition has a length of approximately 55 km. on the east shore of the Nile and includes the following districts (from north to south): Faras, Serra, Debeira, Ashkeit and Sahaba, all north of Wadi Halfa (FIG. 1), and to the south of the town, Abka and Gamai (FIG. 2). In the northern part there is a dirt road of varying quality from Halfa to Nag’ el Gezira in Serra, and a track which continues up to the Egyptian border. As a rule it is not difficult to pass with Landrovers anywhere on the desert ground in these northern parts, whereas to the south of Wadi Halfa all traffic is more or less restricted to the road leading southwards to Dongola, the ground beyond the road being here filled with rocks and loose sand.

Except at Debeira and in the southern parts of the town of Wadi Halfa there are few cultivated areas (marked with dots on FIG. 1), and the survey largely dealt with desert plains and arid mountains up to the height of 180 m. above sea level—the upper limit of the zone to be inundated. Many cemeteries were located in such areas, but they were often very difficult to detect owing to the effects of wind erosion, which is stronger on the east shore than to the west of the Nile. In most cases all the superstructures are raised to the level of the ground and it is typical that even such an extensive C-Group cemetery as No. 35 (see below p. 90) with all its rather well preserved stone superstructures remained unnoticed by earlier investigators and for a time also by ourselves. In other cases (e.g. Nos. 99 and 170) the tombs were hidden by sand and were only found thanks to the presence of potsherds.

In the marginal zone between the desert proper and the silt banks nearer the river, large areas have been disturbed by quarrying and by military activities,

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FIG. 2. MAP OF SITES IN THE DISTRICTS OF ABKA AND GAMAI
and, both here and on the arid silt banks between the desert and the cultivations next to the river, many tombs have been destroyed when the modern villages were built there, many of them being erected after an abnormally high Nile had demolished the farms in the cultivated areas on the river banks. The presence of these houses also makes the survey more difficult, and on the silt banks the surface is covered with decomposed silt mixed with some sand. Here, too, the wind has as a rule levelled the eroded surface. Except for grave mounds of some size the tombs are quite concealed and can only be located after scraping off the surface layer or after probing with an iron rod. Especially in these areas it was of great value to our work that the population had a good knowledge of all kinds of ancient remains and that they were quite willing to co-operate by communicating all their observations. The interviewing of the population was a very important part of our work, as the information thus gained as a rule proved to be of great value. I wish to express our gratitude to the inhabitants of our concession area for this attitude of kindness and hospitality, as well as for all assistance in many other respects.

Because of these factors—wind erosion, sand drift, quarrying, and habitation—we could not rely on an analysis of the aerial photos put at our disposal by the Antiquities Service, but had to walk over the ground. This has been done for the whole concession except the large desert plain and parts of the mountain to the south-east of the town of Wadi Halfa, and all the sites discovered—in all no less than 173—have been marked both on aerial photos and on maps ('Egypt—New Series', prepared by the Army Map Service (AM), Corps of Engineers, U.S. Army, and printed by the Sudan Survey Department, 1960). In all the documentation the sites are topographically defined by reference to the grid system of these maps (put at our disposal by the Antiquities Service), and the names of the villages and the districts are used only as additional references.

The archaeological work was as a rule restricted to exploration—a group of a few archaeologists (as a rule including the Field Director and/or myself) made a preliminary survey on foot and by car and the most promising sites so discovered were selected for trial diggings in order to define the date and extent of the remains. Trial diggings were made on some thirty sites and one cemetery (No. 35) was excavated in toto, after a licence to excavate the area delimited by the co-ordinates x 934000 to 936000 and y 656000 to 658000 had been issued.

We are, however, persuaded that many more sites can be found especially on the silt banks, and many of the cemeteries located will be worth while to excavate in toto, despite the fact that the majority of the tombs so far examined have proved to be more or less plundered.

Our excavation methods were those ordinarily used by Nordic archaeologists, including the use of a 'photographic tower', an immense tripod permitting photos to be take from an altitude of up to 12 m., photos which are then combined into photographic maps (see PLATES XXII, XXV). Unfortunately, no Coptos men
KUSH

were available to us in due time, but it proved quite easy to train the local workers, many of whom showed great interest and good aptitude also for more difficult operations such as the cleaning of skeletons and the handling of the ‘photographic tower’.

THE RESULTS—A PRELIMINARY DESCRIPTION

For each site where trial diggings, excavations or other field work was done, one archaeologist was made responsible, both with regard to the conduct of the work and to the writing of the report and the preliminary catalogue of finds. The final working up of the material cannot be undertaken until further examination and conservation of the finds has been finished in Copenhagen and Stockholm. The present report is therefore based mainly on the preliminary field reports and catalogues made during the field work. These reports and catalogues have been digested after the end of the campaign; the rock drawings were preliminarily worked up by Professor Laessøe, the Stone Age by Dr Meinander, the X-Group, Christian and Islamic periods by Mr Möllerup, and the rest (A-Group, C-Group, Pharaonic remains) by myself together with Mr Schönback, who int. al. was in charge of the excavation of the C-Group cemetery No. 35. The present report is based on these digests and on the field reports. The plans, maps, etc. have been redrawn by Mrs Florence Eriksson in the Egyptological Institute of Uppsala University.

In addition to these categories of dated sites, a considerable number have been noted which so far are not dated. A large percentage of them consist of cairns and stone rings in the desert areas (no less than thirty-two sites with one or several structures of this type). A few of them (at site No. 5) to the west of the upper church at Faras were examined, but we found no datable objects; some others on the southern slope of the mountain of ‘Bintibirra’ (site No. 86) were probably C-Group to judge from a few sherds found in them and still another group (No. 96) further south yielded no datable finds in the trial digging (FIG. 4).

Rock Pictures and Inscriptions

Among 173 sites examined and described by the Expedition, sixteen are sites with rock pictures in varying numbers. Two of these sites are on the mountain of ‘Bintibirra’ in Ashkeit (sites Nos. 76 and 77; see map, FIG. 4),

four in the desert to the east of it and one immediately to the east of the town of Wadi Halfa (see map, FIG. 1). All the other rock pictures were found near the village of Abka and on the island of Tila (sites Nos. 144, 151-4, 156-60, 169 on map, FIG. 2).

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3 See Dunbar, The Rock Pictures of Lower Nubia, p. 83, where some of these carvings are briefly mentioned. One of them, a horse of late date, is reproduced on pl. xiii, 59, and some cattle on pl. xx, 96.
Fig. 3. MAP OF SITES IN THE DISTRICT OF DEBEIRA EAST
Fig. 4. MAP OF SITES IN THE DISTRICT OF ASHKEIT, SOUTH OF THE MOUNTAIN OF 'BINTIBIRRA'
Several of these have been previously examined by O. H. Myers, and a few of them were published by him in this journal. Unfortunately we did not have access to his full report on the graffiti examined by him in the course of his work and excavations in the area round Abka in 1948 and 1957, a report which is still unpublished and filed with the Sudan Antiquities Service. There is, however, reason to believe that several groups of graffiti also in the Abka area registered by the Scandinavian Joint Expedition have not been the subject of previous study. Our work consisted mainly in locating and registering the sites. A proper study with systematic photographing and copying was postponed to a coming season in the hope that we should have access to Myers’ results and thus avoid unnecessary duplication of work.

A few remarks should be made, however, with regard to some pictures on these sites. At site No. 157 no less than between 300 and 400 individual figures or interlinked groups of figures are present on the walls of the rocky plateaux and on large boulders adjoining them. There is a small sand plain, enclosed by the rocks, in this place, where several circular graves are clearly visible on the surface (Plate XVIII, a). None of these was excavated, but it is clearly a matter of urgency to determine the nature and date of them, which may give a hint with regard to the dating of the rock pictures.

Until further archaeological investigations in the immediate neighbourhood of the rock pictures have been made, it is difficult to form an opinion of the date, but it is obvious both from the differences in style and from the subjects depicted that they represent several periods. The following animals occur: ostriches (site No. 157), giraffes (No. 159), camels (No. 157), horse (No. 157) and very many specimens of cattle. An ox engraved on a panel at site No. 157 (C) reveals a technique vaguely similar to one represented on a carving classified by Winkler as pertaining to the 'Uwénät Cattle Breeders. Others are of the same type as those represented on the sites further north (see below, p. 84).

Human figures occur less frequently in the engravings on Tila. Some undoubtedly owe their existence to artists from an environment of people who were cattle breeders. Thus one group shows a man accompanied by a cow and her calf, another represents a man herding some cows with the aid of dogs with curled tails (site No. 157, Plate XIX, a). A scene, drawn with great skill, shows horse training (No. 157, Plate XIX, b). One panel, on the vertical side of a plateau at site No. 157 about 6 m. above the valley and overlooking it, exhibits three human figures of particular interest as they seem to betray an influence from

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5 Thanks to the numbers painted on the sites by Myers it is possible to correlate his numbering (Roman numerals) with that of our expedition as follows: 144=III, 151=II, 152a=Iv, 152b=V, 153=X, 154a=IX, 154b=XI, 154c=XI, 154d=XV, 154e=XVI.
6 Rock Drawings of Southern Upper Egypt, II, pl. xxx, 1.
Egyptian art. The main figure wears what seems to be some kind of a crown (see Plate xviii, b) or a feather. Some other human figures, also combined with cattle, occur at site No. 159.

Drawings of the same motif and in a similar style (note the way of drawing the two ‘inner’ legs and the belly as one single arched line separated from the rest of the drawing) are found on the coarse ware of the C-Group, and a Middle Kingdom date is also suggested by the fact that the same type is combined with the names Mentuhotep and Mentuemhet written in hieroglyphs at site No. 139 on the southern slope of Jebel Sheikh Abu Bakr es-Sadiq to the east of Wadi Halfa (see Plate xx, a). The pictures of cattle on the remaining sites further to the north (sites Nos. 76, 87, 88, 89) are also as a rule similarly drawn and should perhaps be assigned to the same period. A ship of Egyptian style at a site in the desert east of the border line (see Fig. 1) is certainly of Pharaonic date, but a carefully drawn horse on site No. 76, published by Dunbar (see above), is of a later date to judge from the patina, and is probably roughly contemporary with a Greek text close by (Plate xx, b).

**Palaeolithic**

Two palaeolithic sites within the concession of the expedition have been described by earlier investigators. One of them is in Ashkeit, in a steeply sloping wadi on the northern slope of Jebel Sahaba. Some finds were characterized by Sandford and W. J. Arkell as Chelléen, by A. J. Arkell as a late Acheulean industry. Among our finds from this site (numbered by us as No. 145) is a coarse core implement, which would suit this characterization; there were also some scrapers and planes which may be of a later date, but they can perhaps be explained as a Begeleitindustrie. The other site east of Wadi Halfa, where W. J. Arkell found late Mousterian and Sebilian finds under layers of silt, has not been located by us.

It is a well-known fact that palaeolithic tools are found scattered all over the desert soil especially on the higher hills. Owing to the fact that they are only surface finds without a geological context, their scientific value has been regarded as being rather limited. The expedition has collected a considerable amount of such surface finds and thirty-six localities have been noted as sites (marked P on Fig. 1), where tools are found in greater concentration. Such concentrations of tools are mostly found on the sandstone terraces east of the line Debeira–Wadi Halfa, especially in the southern part of this district. The flat tops of these

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7 Cf. Myers, Kush viii, pp. 175 f. and HAS, vol. 8, pls. iv, 3 and lvii, 3.
10 ‘The Old Stone Age in the Anglo-Egyptian Sudan’, *SASOP*, No. 1, p. 45.
terrace seem to be the remnants of a peneplain sloping towards the west, covered by a layer, about half a metre thick, consisting of hard volcanic rock ('ironstone'), which has protected the underlying sandstone from erosion. In this layer the typical ferricrete sandstone is found, which was used for the Nubian palaeolithic tools. The concentrations of palaeolithic finds on these terraces are thus probably to be interpreted as workshops, which have been accessible and have been in use in many different periods. The finds also show that on the higher terraces (170–220 m. above sea level) the contexts are not chronologically homogeneous. Typical and well made Acheulean handaxes are mixed with implements of Levalloisian and Mousterian type (poings moustériformes, disks in the faceted platform technique, bifaces, planes made of prepared blocks, big blades, etc.). The inventory of these sites of course by no means indicates the existence of a contemporary use of Acheulean, Levalloisian and Mousterian tools.

Also on the lower terraces tools of varying types are found, mostly of ironstone (ferricrete sandstone or redstone), but here a chronological grouping may prove possible, when the finds are analysed statistically. Already now it has been noticed that Acheulean handaxes are especially common on some sites whereas they are entirely lacking on others where, instead, big blades are numerous. Among the sites with handaxes No. 122, on a terrace 220 m. above sea level 3 km. east of the northernmost parts of Wadi Halfa (Dabarosa), is a typical one, and site No. 126, 1½ km. further north and on the same level yielded a considerable number of blades (macro-flakes).

A site of especial interest is No. 138, about 1½ km. south-east of Jebel Sahaba in Ashkeit. On a ridge of gravel, possibly an ancient river bed, we found some ten core tools, including one very nice Acheulean handaxe; no planes were noticed and we may have here an unmixed, geologically datable Acheulean site.

Even the lowermost palaeolithic sites are above the sharply marked 130-m. level. Among these lower sites we may mention No. 132 (c. 145 m. above sea level), which yielded finds quite different from those of all the others: small core tools and worked flakes of ironstone and a small number of flints of the same types, all found on an area of 50 × 50 m. This site is obviously of a later date, but still without any typical flake industry.

Mesolithic Sites

On the sites Nos. 108 and 112, just above the 130-m. level east of Argin Island and of Nugu el Sahaba, the surface finds consisted of flint tools including scrapers, burins, microliths and small retouched blades, which may indicate a Mesolithic or Neolithic stage. The raw flint is in the form of small balls (not larger than 10 cm. in diameter), and the quality of the tools not very high. Site No. 112 is on naked rock, but on site No. 108 the finds are imbedded in sand
mixed with shells. No ceramic occurred on this site, which is well worth a close investigation.

Neolithic

No more Neolithic sites than those already discovered by Myers\textsuperscript{12} have been located or examined by the expedition, and because we had no exact knowledge of the extent of Myers’s excavations and documentation, we preferred to postpone further investigations on those sites.

Some other sites with numerous finds of flint tools and waste have been noticed, e.g. at Faras (Nos. 10, 12, 21) and at Amintobirki (No. 98), but their date has so far not been established.

A-Group

In the southern part of the Scandinavian concession the Harvard-Boston expedition 1915–16 excavated two A-Group cemeteries, one (site No. 165) at the northern end of the Gamai plain, the other (No. 167) on the slope east of this plain and due east of the large X-Group cemetery.\textsuperscript{13} An A-Group cemetery from Debeira East had been reported by Arkell,\textsuperscript{14} which has not been investigated by us, but we picked up a loose tubular vase in the neighbourhood (site 33/0 : 3. Type: Reisner, p. 329, 50/43/2), the date of which is obviously A-Group. Some other unassociated finds, but of New Kingdom date, come from the same vicinity.

Two other A-Group sites (Nos. 90 and 95) were located by the expedition (see map, FIG. 4), and trial diggings were executed to ascertain their date and extent. All the tombs were more or less disturbed and plundered in the areas cleared, and on both places there was an admixture of later finds, on site No. 90 a tomb with side chamber probably of X-Group date, and on site No. 95 C-Group sherds occurred among the loose surface finds (cf. below, pp. 95–96) and some of the very plundered tombs were probably of C-Group date.

The A-Group tombs of site No. 90 were shallow, not more than half a metre deep, round pits cut into the hard silt and in one case smoothly smeared with mud. There were no traces of superstructures, and the stones of the packings were in disorder as were the remains of skeletons. In addition to potsherds (‘rippled’ ware of Emery-Kirwan Early Dynastic types xiv, xv, xvii, impressed coarse ware of the type Aniba, 1, Taf. 77,1), we found some retouched flint flakes (cf. Firth, 1908–9, pl. 38, a, 1 and 2) and nine coarse tubular bone beads.

The A-Group tombs of site No. 95 were of the same general type, but more rectangular in form. One of them (No. 2; FIG. 5) had been used on several

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\textsuperscript{12} Cf. Why excavate in Sudanese Nubia?, p. 7 with ref.
\textsuperscript{14} JEA, vol. 36, p. 25.
FIG. 3. AN A-GROUP TOMB AT SITE NO. 95 (ASHKEIT)
occasions (see FIG. 5). The first burial is represented by a skeleton in 'hockerc-
position' with head in south facing west. The second burial is placed in the
opposite direction, a fact which shows that the orientation of the dead was
regarded as being of less importance at this time. From this lower layer there
were no in situ finds—the northern part of the tomb had been disturbed and
some pottery found there may belong to the first burials. The undisturbed
southern part of the upper layer contained the third burial, a skeleton in 'hockerc-
position', and behind its head there was a small palette of the typical A-Group
form\(^{15}\) (PLATE XXI, a).

A similar, but larger palette occurred in the rather disturbed tomb No. 4.
The finds from this cemetery also include a small rectangular disk of mother of
pearl, some green faience beads, bowls in rippled ware, and also sherds of the
very fine pink painted ware with red pattern on the inside and the outer side
yellowish and pink streaked.\(^{16}\)

Despite the fact that the tombs have been disturbed or plundered, both
cemeteries deserve a closer examination which will be undertaken in the course
of the next season.

C-Group

When Posener\(^{17}\) wrote his article on the problem of the localization of
Kush and the connexion of this geographical term with the different Nubian
cultures—the Kerma group and the C-Group—the latter was not known south
of Faras West.\(^{18}\) The interrelations between the two civilizations were also
difficult to study as the interesting area of contact, the district from, let us say,
the island of Sai (which certainly belongs to the sphere of the Kerma group)
up to Faras had never been properly investigated. During the survey of the
east bank in 1955–6 Senior Inspector Thabit Hassan Thabit, now Commissioner
for Archaeology, examined two graves on a site near Sheikh Abdallah's tomb
(our site No. 24) and ascribed them to the C-Group, though with some doubts.\(^{19}\)
A few trial diggings on this site did not reveal any more such graves. Some of
the mounds proved to be natural silt banks, and some heaps of stones which
look like superstructures are eroded outcrops of rock.

On the west bank further surveys have proved the existence of C-Group
remains at least down to the neighbourhood of Buhen (See Nordström's report,
above, p. 45) and in our concession we found several C-Group cemeteries
(marked C on map, FIG. 1). Only one of them has been excavated in toto; on
the others we carried out trial diggings only.

\(^{15}\) Cf. Aniba, I, p. 26 with ref.
\(^{16}\) Cf. Aniba, I, p. 25 type G; Firth, III, p. 214, pl. 20, b.
\(^{17}\) Kush VI (1958), p. 63.
PLATE XVIII

a. SITE NO. 157. ISLAND OF TILA (ABKA)

b. ROCKDRAWING AT SITE NO. 157 (ABKA)

facing p. 88
a. ROCKDRAWING AT SITE NO. 157 (ABKA)

b. ROCKDRAWING AT SITE NO. 157 (ABKA)
a. MIDDLE KINGDOM TEXTS AT SITE NO. 139 (WADI HALFA)

b. GREEK TEXT AT SITE NO. 76 ("BINTIBIRRA", ASHKEIT).
a. PALETTE AND DISK OF MOTHER-OF-PEARL, A-GROUP. (NOS. 95/2:1 AND 3)

b. DAGGER FROM SITE NO. 65 (KOM ES-SAHABA, DEBEIRA)
PHOTOGRAPHIC MAP OF SITE NO. 97 (ASHKEIT). C-GROUP
a. BUTTON SEALS FROM SITE NO. 65 (65/3: 1 AND 2)

b. HYKSOS SCARAB FROM SITE NO. 97 (97/7: 1)

c. NEW KINGDOM SCARABS AND BEADS FROM C-GROUP TOMB NO. 35/78
a. IMPRESSED C-GROUP WARE (NO. 97/8:1)

b. INCISED C-GROUP WARE (WITH INTENTIONAL HOLES—'KILLED VASE' NO. 97/4:1)

c. CARINATED VASES FROM C-GROUP TOMBS (NOS. 35/8:3 AND 35/0:4)
PLATE XXVI

a. C-GROUP CEMETERY NO. 35 FROM THE NORTH

b. PENDANT OF STONE AND OTHER FINDS FROM TOMB NO. 35/75
a. SCARABS FROM SITE NO. 64 (NEW KINGDOM)

b. SCARAB FROM SITE NO. 19 (X-GROUP)

c. STONE VESSELS FROM TOMB NO. 64/2 (NEW KINGDOM)
a. KNIVES, SPATULA, DIE OF BONE FROM TOMB NO. 19/1 (X-GROUP)

b. BRONZE FITTINGS FROM CHAMBER TOMB NO. 92/1 (ROMAN)
PRELIMINARY REPORT—SCANDINAVIAN JOINT EXPEDITION

The oldest stage of the C-Group seems to be represented on site No. 65, on what is apparently an old island in the river in the western parts of the cultigens of Debeira East (see map, FIG. 1). The place is now called Kom es-Sahaba near the village Hillet Kamangana and is mentioned in the report on the survey of 1955–6 (p. 4) as being ‘possibly the site from which a large scarab of Ramesses II came in 1933’.

About 1 km. to the east of the Nile there is a large mound with gently sloping sides, some 200 m. in diameter. It is covered with a layer of loose sand (some decimetres thick), and under the sand there is ¼ m. of packed clay (silt), the lower limit of which is marked by a thin layer of gravel with rolled stones, and under this again packed coarse sand. In the loose upper sand there are many fragments of the light sandstone so often used in the superstructures of the C-Group, and many sherds of incised and black-topped wares. A very fine dagger of Hyksos type (PLATE XXI, b) was delivered to us by a man from the village who told us that his father had found it on the mound.

In the trial digging we found a great number of beads of green faience, and some elliptic pendants of white stone also belong to the loose finds from this mound. Under the loose sand we came upon four tombs in our trial trench, all of them unfortunately plundered and in a disturbed condition. In two cases parts of the superstructures and stone packings remained. They seem to have been rather carelessly constructed and the best preserved one was of the dimensions 2 x 2 m. The length of the pits varied from 1 to 1.4 m. with a width of a little more than ½ m. and the bottom some 1.5 m. below the ground. In grave No. 1 there was a collection of beads, in grave No. 2 a black-topped bowl of the best quality, in No. 3 in addition to beads of green faience two button seals (PLATE XXIII, a), decorated one with a scorpion and one with two serpents, as well as numerous sherds of black-topped bowls, and leather fragments, to mention only some of the more significant finds. The date of these tombs is thus obviously early C-Group, to judge from the button seals and the forms of some of the black-topped bowls.

The C-Group of the Hyksos period is represented by site No. 97 in Ashkeit on a silt bank between the villages Amintoberki and Kashkush. Here, too, the site was strewn with fragments of light sandstone and C-Group sherds (black-topped, incised, and also Qena ware). In our trial digging (3 x 15 x 3 m.) we examined seven tombs (FIG. 6, PLATE XXII). In two cases the superstructures were entirely destroyed, in the other tombs they were of the ordinary C-Group type, a rectangular shaft filled with a mixture of clay and sand, covered with a layer of clay and flat stones, and this mound surrounded by a ring of irregular stones.

20 In Why excavate in Sudanese Nubia?, p. 15, it is called ‘possible site of a New Kingdom town’, probably on the basis of this find.
22 Cf. Aniba, I, p. 58, Taf. 31 : 5 and 6 (dated to VIIth Dynasty).
KUSH

mainly of flat stones, placed horizontally. Thanks to the fact that some of these superstructures were partly built over those of earlier tombs we could ascertain the relative chronology of four tombs, which followed one another in the order Nos. 2, 7, 9, 3. From the shaft of No. 7 came a typical Hyksos scarab with a picture of a hare (Plate xxiii, b). The other finds chiefly consisting of C-Group pottery, where a black-topped bowl with impressed pattern (No. 8: 1) represents a very rare type (Plate xxiv, a; cf. Nordström’s report, above, p. 56, Plate xii, a). On the southern outside of the stone ring of tomb No. 7 bones from a sacrificed animal were placed under some flat stones.

Of special interest for the study of the development of the late C-Group and its transition into the purely Egyptian New Kingdom civilization which dominates Nubia from about 1500 B.C. is the cemetery No. 35, situated on the desert plain to the north-west of the well-known tomb of Djehuty-hotep (site No. 36)\(^{23}\) (see map, Fig. 3). Nothing was visible on this site before the excavation, except the upper part of some stone rings, but, as already mentioned, everything was raised by wind erosion to the level of the ground and covered up by loose sand, which had been hardened on the surface by the wind. Under the surface sand there was a layer of silt, 0.5–1.3 m. thick, into which the burial shafts had been cut. Often the shafts continued down into the underlaying rock of sandstone.

All the tombs of this cemetery, eighty in all, were cleared (FIG. 7, PLATES xxv, xxvi, a) but none of them was found intact. Nevertheless the cemetery yielded a rich harvest of pottery and a considerable number of other finds.

There were two main types of tombs—shafts with stone superstructures and shafts or pits without any traces of superstructure. In many cases these simple shafts or pits were probably graves which had been left uncompleted and unused, because the layer of silt over the rock was too thin for a proper shaft to be sunk into it without having to continue down into the rock. But two of them (Nos. 75 and 78) contained rich finds.

No. 75 has a unique north to south orientation instead of the east to west orientation characteristic of the other tombs, and the body was placed in a crouching ‘hocker-position’ on its right side with the head to the south. Near the pelvis and especially between the legs there was a great quantity of faience beads (presumably the remains of a skirt\(^{24}\)) together with a ring of stone, a piece of eroded bronze and leather fragments. Beads of bone were found near the neck, and on the chest near the chin a unique hook-shaped pendant of grey stone (Plate xxvi, b). Another pendant of red schist was placed near the left hand.

In tomb No. 78 the shaft was orientated east to west as usual. The skeleton was placed in a strange twisted position, with the chest flat on the ground, the head to the east, and the rest of the body in a crouching position on the left side.

\(^{23}\) See Kush VIII, p. 25 with ref.  
\(^{24}\) Cf. Aniba, I, p. 45 with ref.
Fig. 6. TRIAL TRENCH AT SITE NO. 97 (ASHKEIT). C-GROUP TOMBS

Fig. 7. GENERAL PLAN OF C-GROUP CEMETERY NO. 35 (DEBEIRA)
(Tombs without superstructures are shaded; Roman numerals indicate hearths.)
KUSH

Around the neck there were eight scarabs, sixteen stone beads in the form of birds and beads of faience. The scarabs as well as these birds all date from the beginning of the New Kingdom, some of the scarabs being inscribed with the name of Tuthmosis III (Plate xxiii, c).

The tombs with superstructures were of the following main types with many individual variations (see Fig. 8):

I. Superstructures of dark, hard 'ironstone'. The outer row of stones is irregularly built, with vertically placed stones leaning inwards towards the centre of the superstructure which is covered with slabs arranged as tiles in several layers. The central part is slightly domed over the pit. In this pit there is a cist of slabs, oval or pointed oval in groundplan.

IIa. Rather large superstructures mainly of light sandstone. The outer edge consists of several rows of vertical slabs. The central part, less domed than in the preceding type, is covered with flat slabs placed like tiles in several layers. Oval shaped cist in the shaft.

IIb. Like the preceding type but with the central part covered with one layer of slabs only.

IIc. Middle-sized superstructures of similar types, but with an outer edge of one row of vertical slabs only, and central part covered with one layer of slabs.

III. Middle-sized, often oval-shaped superstructures, almost entirely of sandstone, with an outer edge of one row of vertical slabs. The central part has no stone covering. The cist is oval or rectangular.

One single tomb (No. 80) has a sloping side entrance to the shaft, which is covered with a stone superstructure.

Very often the shafts are not placed exactly under the centre of the superstructures. If this was a device to hide the shaft from plunderers it was not very successful. All the tombs have been plundered more or less in the same way, starting from the east. In many cases only the eastern half of the stone covering and of the slabs covering the cist in the shaft have been removed. In such cases, too, the plundering was complete, which may indicate that it took place at a rather early date before the cists had been filled with sand.

The cists, which are built with vertical slabs less than \( \frac{1}{2} \) m. high and covered with a few slabs, are all so small, that the dead must always have been placed in 'hocker-position', as is the case in the tombs where the position can be ascertained. There the body is crouching on the right side with the head to the east. There were no traces of sarcophagi and very few fragments of textile, but as a rule we found remains of folded leather, and in some cases there were

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25 A similar form of the birds occurs, e.g. Aniba, ii, Taf. 53, 12, and on a necklace or armlet of gold in private possession in Stockholm—see the catalogue 5000 år egyptisk konst, Nationalmuseum 1961, No. 421.
Fig. 8. TYPE OF TOMB AT SITE NO. 35, C-GROUP
KUSH

lots of small sticks under the body, probably remains of some basket work on which the dead had been placed.\(^\text{26}\)

The types of burial are thus entirely un-Egyptian, but not exactly identical with the normal C-Group. The characteristics of the contemporary late C-Group—chapels of stone or of bricks, vaults in the burial shafts, stelae, etc.—are lacking here, and to my knowledge there are no parallels in the normal C-Group to the specific types of superstructures with an outer edge of vertical slabs.\(^\text{27}\)

The finds are also slightly different from those typical of the late C-Group. Thus the characteristic incised pottery (especially in the shape of bowls) which occurred frequently, e.g. in the earlier tombs of site No. 97, and which had a new floruit in the tombs of other late C-Group sites, often in the form of ‘egg-cups’ with multicoloured incised patterns, is entirely lacking on site No. 35. Despite the plundering some sherds would certainly have been found, had this type belonged to the burial outfit. The rather few sherds with incised decorations are practically all of the category ‘coarse ware’, and show the very simple patterns of that ware.\(^\text{28}\) There were also quite a few fragments decorated with parallel, impressed (?) lines covering the whole surface, but I am not sure that this is a Nubian ware.\(^\text{29}\) There is no trace of Kerma ware which is not so rare in the late C-Group, and so the fact that this site differs in some respects from the ordinary C-Group cannot be explained with the assumption of a Kerma influence. The ordinary black-topped bowls of C-Group type were very common, to judge from the sherds, but Egyptian wares are quite as common, especially carinated vases with brimmed neck and sometimes with painted patterns (Plate xxiv, c),\(^\text{30}\) bowls with base-ring, and dishes of the common New Kingdom types.

Similarly, in addition to personal ornaments of native types such as the unique pendant from No. 75, armlets, rings and beads of bone as well as snailshells used as beads, there are not only considerable quantities of green faience beads but also a collection of scarabs and stone beads in the form of birds of a purely Egyptian type.

It is difficult to establish a relative chronology, owing to the plundering and to the fact that the graves are isolated from one another. No stratification of the sand between the tombs could be ascertained. In the northern part of the cemetery the outer rows of vertical slabs are always erected directly on the ancient ground surface of silt, but in the southern part in a group of tombs, especially of type III, these vertical slabs are sometimes placed on loose sand.

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\(^\text{26}\) Cf. Aniba, i, p. 43 with ref.
\(^\text{27}\) To judge from KUSH VII, PLATE XXVII (cf. p. 140, n. 90 with ref.) similar superstructures occur in the eastern desert near the Khor Raft gold mine.
\(^\text{28}\) Cf. e.g. Aniba, i, Taf. 54 ff. \(^\text{29}\) Cf. Firth, iii, pl. 25.
\(^\text{30}\) Cf. Aniba, ii, types 37, 38.
above the silt, which indicates a slightly later date. The fact that the scarabs
found in one of the tombs without superstructure (No. 78) were of a later date
(Tuthmosis III) than a scarab from tomb No. 8 (Amenophis I) with one of the
finest superstructures may also be an indication that the tombs without super-
structures are later. On this assumption the development would show a
gradually increasing negligence in the construction of the superstructures,
until they finally disappear. As the ordinary tombs of the New Kingdom in
Lower Nubia are of the simple shaft type without superstructure, this develop-
ment seems plausible in itself, but cannot be proved on site No. 35.

Anyhow, the site does not give the impression of covering a very long
period, and the tombs seem to be roughly contemporary. The scarabs indicate
the early xviiiith Dynasty, and the same date and perhaps also the late Hyksos
period, would agree with the Egyptian pottery found, especially the carinated
vases with brimmed neck.

To the south-west of site No. 35 some other C-Group tombs (site No. 170)
were found not far from the New Kingdom tombs (site No. 37) published by Nigm
ed-Din Mohammed Sherif.31 Six burials were examined in the trial digging, four
of which were more or less undisturbed. One contained a new born child buried
in a large pot of coarse ware placed in a pit covered with slabs. In two cases
only the graves were covered with a heap of stones. The best preserved super-
structure (No. 2) was built of irregular ironstone. In the circular shaft or pit,
which had partly been lined with bast mats, the body was placed in ‘hocker
position’ and surrounded by a row of stones. Near the right hand was a black-
topped bowl, the black border of which is of a very regular width, and under
the head a few tools, two awls, one of bronze with a wooden shaft and one of
bone, and a small chisel of bronze. About 2,000 white beads of bone, some
500 of dark stone and 123 of green faience were also found under the head of
the dead. In another case (tomb No. 1) the body was stretched out on its
back, turned slightly to the right and placed in a shallow shaft. There were
some beads around the neck and a rather coarse black-topped vase had been
placed on the chest of the deceased. It seems reasonable to assume that this
burial is of a later date and illustrates the transition to purely Egyptian burial
customs. This site will be excavated in toto next season.

During the survey we found C-Group remains also on other sites, on No.
95 together with A-Group (see above, p. 86), on No. 38 immediately east of
T 154, a few kilometres to the south of the fortress of Serra East, a C-Group
cemetery in many respects similar to No. 35,32 on site No. 86 on the southern
slopes of the mountain ‘Bintibirra’ in Ashkeit with some plundered shallow
pits under small circular stone superstructures, and on No. 99 near Nag’ Kuga

31 Kush viii, pp. 53 ff.
32 This site was allotted to the American concession of Serra East after we had
discovered it.

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where some late C-Group sherds were found also in a plundered shallow pit. A mound (site No. 48) to the north-east of the C-Group cemetery No. 35 and due north of the tomb of Djehuty-hotep which had been regarded as an X-Group tumulus proved on examination to be a natural silt formation which had been used for a cemetery of C-Group date to judge from the black-topped sherds and the beads of bone found in the shallow, rather disturbed graves. Scattered C-Group sherds also occurred in a trial trench opened near our headquarters in an attempt to find remains of a settlement (site No. 147).

New Kingdom

Within the area of our concession New Kingdom tombs had been excavated in Gamai by Oric Bates, in the neighbourhood of the fortress at Serra East by Griffith, and the district of Debeira East by Thabit Hassan Thabit (our No. 36) and Nigm ed-Din Mohammed Sheriff (our No. 37). The latter are of special interest not only because of the unique paintings in the tomb of Djehuty-hotep (No. 36), but also because the tombs of this extensive group of cemeteries (Nos. 36, 37, 64 and 146) are partly contemporary with C-Group tombs in the neighbourhood. The tomb of Djehuty-hotep is dated to the reigns of Queen Hatshepsut and Tuthmosis III, and in tomb No. 1 of site No. 37 a scarab and a scaraboid with the name of Tuthmosis III were found; the pottery and other finds also indicate the early xviii Dynasty as a probable date. These tombs, as well as the others we found in the neighbourhood, thus show the result of the gradual Egyptianization of the C-Group, and the difference between the C-Group cemetery No. 35 and the New Kingdom tombs in the same neighbourhood is not so much a difference in date as a difference in cultural stages. It would perhaps in itself seem plausible to assume that the tombs of Egyptian type and with Egyptian burial outfit represent the Egyptian rulers of the country in contrast to the conquered Nubians still buried in their native way, but this is hardly the case, as we know from the texts in his tomb that Djehuty-hotep was himself a Nubian with Nubian parents. Thus it was probably rather the immediate ancestors and perhaps more conservative and poorer contemporary relatives of such men as Djehuty-hotep who were buried in the Nubian way in cemetery No. 35.

Two shaft tombs lay open further to the north and just south of the wadi at Nag el-Leithi when we started our explorations. These tombs had been cleared by the Antiquities Service a few years earlier (1962?) and are not yet published. In the immediate neighbourhood we found two more shaft tombs.

34 HAS, vol. 8, pp. 14 ff. (his cem. No. 500, our site No. 164).
35 LAAA, vol. 8, p. 98.
36 Kush v, pp. 81 ff.; the paintings were published by me in Kush viii, pp. 25 ff.
37 Kush viii, pp. 53 ff.
of New Kingdom date (Nos. 64/1 and 64/2), and to the north of the wadi a third was cleared by us (No. 64/3). They were all plundered, but yielded nevertheless quite a few interesting finds. In tombs Nos. 1 and 2 we found the stones used for pounding the rock when chambers were cut. On the north wall of the shaft in tomb No. 2, pictures of two conventional Egyptian boats had been incised, probably a barbaric illustration of the orthodox Egyptian pilgrimage to Abydos. None of the finds was in situ in the chambers of this tomb, but an examination of the skeletal material showed that there had been at least five different burials. The ceramic was of the ordinary New Kingdom types, and carinated vases with brimmed neck of the same type as those found in the C-Group cemetery No. 35 were not uncommon. Several are complete and they are often decorated. From this tomb, too, came a set of stone vases (Plate xxvii, c), two fine scarabs, one with the name of Tuthmosis III and one with a rare and very well-cut picture of a man in a chariot (Plate xxvii, a). There were also a few miniature Udjat-eyes, three beads in the form of small birds, exactly like those found in the C-Group tomb No. 35/78, two kohl-sticks, and fragments of gold leaf.

No. 64/3 had been used for a secondary, probably modern burial in the shaft. In the chambers were remains from at least five different burials, including that of a small child. The ceramic is of the ordinary New Kingdom types, and with it were found a considerable number of beads, gold leaf fragments, and remains of a pottery sarcophagus and fragments of gesso masks, like those found by Nigm ed-Din Mohammed Sherif (No. 37/1A : 5 and 26).

Whereas the forms and the contents of these tombs indicate that the owners were persons of a certain wealth, the shallow shafts with New Kingdom burials (No. 146) further south in the same district are probably the tombs of poorer classes. But here, too, the Egyptianization is total, and there are no traces left of native Nubian civilization. The tombs were disturbed and contained nothing of especial value.

Quite a number of New Kingdom vases were delivered to us by our neighbours in Debeira, but trial excavations on the spots where these vases were said to have been found yielded no further New Kingdom sites.

All the evidence makes it clear, however, that Debeira was an important centre in the New Kingdom, and I have little doubt that the residence of the Prince of Thht must have been somewhere in the immediate neighbourhood of our headquarters.38

X-Group and Christian remains

The survey did not furnish any evidence with regard to the problem why practically nothing dating from the time after the end of the New Kingdom and

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Fig. 10. CHAMBER TOMB AT SITE NO. 64 (DEBEIRA). NEW KINGDOM
down to the Napatan and Meroitic periods is found in Lower Nubia. We did not even come upon any important Meroitic remains. A Meroitic cemetery has been reported just south and east of Debeira Girls’ School (site No. 68), but we did not execute any trial diggings there. A Meroitic stela of late style was found at Gebel Dabarosa by the army when making a road in 1941 and has been published by Laming Macadam. The precise location of this finding place is uncertain, and it is even possible that the stela was found on the west bank. Perhaps the place is, however, identical with our site No. 123 in the northern suburb of Wadi Halfa, near the quarantine station, which is sometimes called Dabarosa by the inhabitants and where there are traces of lively military activity. Meroitic and X-Group cemeteries have also been excavated at Gamai by Bates and Dunham.

During the survey and in our trial diggings a number of X-Group and Christian tombs were examined, especially in the districts of Faras and Ashkeit (see map, FIG. 1).

A typical X-Group cemetery was located in the village Nag’ Shirfadik (site No. 25), a few kilometres north of the American concession of Serra East. The central part of this cemetery is occupied by at least forty-two mounds now visible, and excavations will probably reveal the presence of a still greater number. The northern part of the cemetery is covered by modern Islamic tombs.

The X-Group mounds are all of the same type, some 6–12 m. in diameter and eroded down to the height of 20–40 cm. We examined five of them (Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4, 13) all of which were of the type Emery-Kirwan W 13. The mound consists of sand mixed with silt and has a rectangular shaft (2.5 × 1.2 m.) in the centre about 2 m. deep. The orientation is east to west and the side niche in the bottom of the shaft is cut in its western wall. This niche is about 80–90 cm. deep, its bottom is on a lower level than that of the bottom of the shaft. The body was placed in ‘hocker-position’ with the head to the south, facing west.

The mounds were plundered, but the robbers had sometimes only opened the southern part of the burial niche near the head of the body where the most costly objects, jewels, etc. were to be found, and the ceramic and other things of less value were left untouched in the northern half of the niche. Thus, in mound No. 4 (FIG. 11), which was the best preserved one, the body was somewhat disturbed, but most of the burial outfit was found in situ. It consisted mainly of pottery, beakers, flasks and globular vases, fragments of iron, textile and leather, as well as a well preserved leaf-shaped arrow-head of iron.

40 JEA, vol. 36, pp. 46 f.
41 In Why excavate in Sudanese Nubia?, p. 16, this Meroitic cemetery is said to be on the east bank near Wadi Halfa.
Fig. 11. X-GROUP TOMB NO. 25/4 (SERRA EAST)
KUSH

One of the largest mounds, No. 13, was entirely plundered but among the finds were a pair of bronze hinges and fragments of a lock from a wooden box.

Further north at site No. 19, just south of Faras station, a practically untouched X-Group mound was examined (FIG. 12). Here, too, the mound was very eroded, down to a height of 40–50 cm. and its diameter was 10 m.
The central shaft was orientated north-east to south-west, gradually narrowing towards the bottom. There was no side niche or side chamber, and the burial was placed under a stone packing directly on the bottom of the shaft, in ‘hocker-position’ as usual, with the head to the south, facing west. An attempt had been made to break into the tomb from the southern end, but without causing much damage. In the northern part near the feet of the body there were among other things seven pottery vessels, some boxes and bags of leather, containing int. al. a die of bone, beads and toilet utensils (PLATE XXVIII, a). Under the skull was a necklace, including a re-used scarab probably of Saite date (PLATE XXVII, b), and over the chest and the head we found a large quantity of leather and textile fragments, possibly the remains of a saddle.

In the immediate neighbourhood of this mound was the southern one of the two so-called gold-washing stations excavated by Thabit Hassan Thabit and published by Vercoutter. 43 500 m. further south we found a third structure of the same construction and practically identical with those excavated. Here, too, the pottery indicates a late date.

In the northern outskirts of the town of Wadi Halfa near the quarantine station we found a number of mounds (site No. 123) similar to those examined in the Faras district, but smaller and still more eroded. Three of them were excavated, but they did not contain much of interest as they were all robbed.

Near the village Kashkash in Ashkeit (see map, FIG. 4) on site No. 63 there are many mounds of varying size and irregular shape. Some of them are undoubtedly grave mounds, others are the results of sebakh digging, in some cases secondarily used for burials. The number of burials can be ascertained only after extensive excavations. Trial diggings revealed sixteen different burials on six restricted areas, which shows that this place has been intensively used as a cemetery. An irregular, probably natural mound of silt contained not less than seven different graves, one of them with five different burials. The other tombs examined were all marked with a small mound, sometimes formed by the silt excavated when the shaft with its niche was dug. The tombs were often in a disturbed state, but seem to be constructed in the same way as those of Nag’ Shirfadik (No. 25), i.e. the type Emery-Kirwan W 13. In one case the body was crouching in ‘hocker-position’ but as a rule the dead were placed flat on their backs. These bodies were in tombs containing nothing but textiles and some faience beads. In an un plundered grave of a child there was quite a collection of pottery vessels indicating an X-Group date. The other tombs were presumably either X-Group or perhaps more likely Christian.

Further north near the villages Amintoberki and Asmenna Birki similar tombs of the same date were found at several sites (Nos. 84, 90, 94), some being of the type Emery-Kirwan W 13, ‘shaft with side niche or side chamber’.

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43 His number 1; see KUSH VII, pp. 120 ff. A similar construction was also found by Simpson at Toshke; ILN, 15 July 1961, p. 95.
KUSH

some of the type W 10, ‘pit with end chamber’, and with no traces of any superstructures. In one case (No. 84/1) the stone packing in the doorway leading into an end chamber of this type was untouched, and in the chamber or niche there were two skeletons on their backs with the heads towards the entrance and their hands folded over the pelvis, but the tomb contained nothing more than very decayed remains of a bier or a sarcophagus of wood. At this site there was also a grave (No. 84/3) of the type Emery-Kirwan W 4, a rectangular, narrowing shaft, the lower part of which is covered with slabs, a type dated by Emery-Kirwan to the Meroitic period, but here the ceramic rather indicated an X-Group date, as it included int. al. a ‘saqia’ vessel (Emery-Kirwan type X. vi) and a deep dish of type X. xvii. Some more rectangular pits on this site with the bodies flat on their backs and as a rule with very little burial outfit (including Rillenkeramik) are probably Christian.

A pottery kiln of Christian (?) date (site No. 67) was located between the Nile and the same former island on the northern part of which is the C-Group cemetery of Kom Sahaba (site No. 65). As Dr W. Adams had already specialized in this type of kiln and expressed a wish to excavate the site, we were pleased to turn it over to him.

The Christian churches in our area, two at Faras, one immediately to the south of the American concession of Serra East, one to the south of Jebel Sahaba, on the top of which are fortifications also partly of Christian date, and probably several in the Christian complex of Abkanarti, were only noted by us, but we did not execute any work in them. Some trial diggings on the hill to the west of the upper church of Faras revealed the existence of graves covered with stone rings, but yielded no finds. We also noted as sites some fortified areas in the Abka region (sites Nos. 142, 152 and 168), the dates of which are uncertain. Half a kilometre to the north of one of these areas (site No. 142) is a group of stone rings (No. 141) which, to judge from the sherd, may be X-Group or later. These sites and many others located by us will require a closer investigation before they can be dated.

About 500 m. to the east of Nag’ Amintoberki is a shaft tomb (site No. 92) which had already been emptied once, but which we cleared again. The construction is more complicated than that of the ordinary New Kingdom shaft tombs (see FIG. 13), the first chamber having two columns and two niches in the rear wall. The entrance had been shut with a portcullis. In the rear wall there is a doorway leading to a second chamber, originally only some 80 cm. high, 2 m. long and 1 m. wide. Then a shaft was sunk in the first chamber just outside this doorway, and from this shaft a second chamber with an arched roof was cut under the small chamber above. The rock separating the two chambers has now been destroyed, probably by plunderers, but the original arched roof and the floor of the earlier construction can still be seen in the innermost part

44 See Kush ix (1961), pp. 30 ff.
of the two chambers. Finally, yet another shaft was cut in the floor of the first chamber, probably with the intention of making a third burial chamber under the two mentioned above, but for some reason the plan was abandoned.

The finds, none of which were in situ, consisted of a rich variety from different periods, the latest being a modern water jar and empty cigarette packets. Some bronze fittings with remains of iron nails, probably fastened to a wooden chest, the remains of which were also found, seem to be of a Roman type (Plate xxviii, b), whereas three ear-rings, two of carnelian and one of ivory, are of a type common in the New Kingdom. It is difficult to date the construction of this shaft tomb with any certainty; it is possible, however, that the construction of the shaft and part of the first chamber dates back to the New Kingdom, but that in Roman times it received its present form, which resembles the forms of the Roman catacombs, e.g. in Alexandria, rather than those of the New Kingdom tombs.
Egypt Exploration Society:
A Preliminary Report on the Excavations at Buhen, 1960–1
by W. B. Emery

With the exception of the area below the temple of Hatshepsut the fortress of Buhen has now been completely explored and all important features have been excavated.

The excavations were reopened on 6 November, in the south-east corner of the fortifications, with the object of ascertaining the extent of the spur wall which projects from the main rectangle of the fortress along the river bank from north to south. This wall, of which little remains but the foundations, extends for a distance of 21 m. where it ends with a large square tower.

On the completion of our work on the spur wall we turned our attention, once more, to the interior of the fortress, and from 15 November to 11 December, we cleared the remaining part of the town in the south-east area. Although this district was much denuded, the general plan of the streets of Middle Kingdom houses was ascertainable, and the fact was established that the town had been built on a series of lateral terraces in order to overcome the natural slope of the ground towards the river. (Plate XXIX, a.) Most of the buildings were houses of some size and importance during the Middle Kingdom, but when they were rebuilt and reoccupied in the New Kingdom they had been divided up into smaller dwellings, and at an even later date, some of them had been used as workshops and foundries. Small slagheaps were a common feature in this vicinity.

As the work progressed towards the south-east part of the town it became increasingly evident that we were moving into a more or less barren area which had been denuded by wind erosion. Test trenches soon showed that the whole of this part of the area had been completely obliterated and that the present ground surface was, for the most part, below the original foundation level. However, sufficient evidence remained to enable us to ascertain the general street system. Over the whole town area excavated this season we found numerous pieces of inscribed masonry, mostly of New Kingdom date, but there was no trace of any buildings to which they may have belonged.

On 12 December, we commenced the excavation of the southern defences, which included the main wall, lower ramparts and ditch. Outside the main wall, at the south-west corner we found a large building of late New Kingdom date which had been built over the Middle Kingdom ditch, and over the early New Kingdom roadway which was constructed over the lower defences when the fortress was rebuilt after its reoccupation. (Plate XXIX, b.) The removal of
(a) General view of the south-east area of the town

(b) The southern defences of the Middle Kingdom showing the overbuilding of the ditch by structures of the New Kingdom

Facing p. 106
(a) LOOPOLED PARAPET OF THE LOWER RAMPARTS OF THE NORTHERN DEFENCES

(b) ROUND BASTION OF THE NORTHERN DEFENCES
PLATE XXXI

GENERAL VIEWS OF THE NORTHERN DEFENCES
A PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT BUHEN

this late New Kingdom structure and the foundations of the roadway considerably delayed the progress of the work but we were greatly compensated by the stratified deposits which lay below it. In no other part of the excavations was Buhen's history of nearly one thousand years, so plainly recorded.

The southern fortifications, although not as well preserved as those on the western side of the town, were intact, as far as the foundations were concerned, and full details of their design were ascertainable. Here again, we have the main wall with projecting rectangular towers, a lower rampart with firestep, loopholes and round bastions which project at intervals into the ditch. (PLATE XXX, a.) The ditch, at the river end, turns a short distance to the south, flanking what appears to have been a spur wall of similar design and dimensions to that discovered at the north-east corner of the fortress last year. Unfortunately the area had suffered much from wind erosion, and only the stone foundations of the spur wall had survived. No gate of any sort existed in the southern defences.

The excavation of this area was completed on 5 February, and we then turned our attention to the corresponding defences on the north side of the fortress. Work was started at the north-east corner which we had partly cleared at the end of last season. The length of the spur wall, running from north to south, was confirmed, and then all available labour was concentrated on the excavation of the ditch, main wall and lower ramparts, as far down as the New Kingdom level. (PLATE XXXI.) As with the west and south defences, after the reoccupation in the early xviii-th Dynasty, the main wall with its projecting towers, had been strengthened by the construction of an outer skin-wall, about 1 m. thick. The loopholed parapet had also been removed and replaced by a rather ragged retaining wall, to hold back the deposit of sand and rubble which had accumulated over the lower ramparts during the late Second Intermediate period when Buhen was apparently an unoccupied ruin.

The New Kingdom restoration of the ruined Middle Kingdom walls was more extensive than in the other parts of the fortifications. It would appear that only four of the projecting towers of the Middle Kingdom walls were still standing when Buhen was reoccupied, and the destroyed towers were rebuilt by the restorers in their first effort to strengthen the walls. But in most cases, they had not built them firmly on the stumps of the original structures, but had rested their foundations on the rubble and sand deposit above them. In consequence of this the restored towers were found to be insecure and they were therefore encased in the skin-walls which were the main feature of the New Kingdom restoration altering the whole outer appearance of the structure.

After measurement and photography the New Kingdom restorations were removed, and the original Middle Kingdom walls were revealed, including the usual round bastions which projected from the lower ramparts into the ditch. (PLATE XXX, b.)

The remaining period of our season, from 16 March to 27 March was devoted to a general examination of the New Kingdom walls and ditch, which form an
irregular perimeter round the enlarged town which came into existence at that period. This perimeter extends for a distance of more than 1,300 m. Although the massive walls of the later fortress have, in most cases, been reduced by wind erosion to only the barest traces, often less than one brick thick, sufficient remained to show the full details of the original plan, and the location of the towers and gateways. Further excavation around the big gate-house, discovered last year in the great salient on the west side of the perimeter, have shown many new features of architectural importance.

On 16 November Dr Ricardo Caminos joined our staff and throughout the season he devoted his entire time to the epigraphic recording of the temple of Hatshepsut. He completed this arduous task on 23 March.

The only part of the fortress of Buhen that remains unexplored is the area below the temple of Hatshepsut. No trace of a temple of the Middle Kingdom has been discovered, and it would appear probable that such a building may well be situated below the New Kingdom sanctuary. When the temple of Hatshepsut is removed, in accordance with the recommendations of the Unesco Consultative Committee, we will be able to excavate this, the last area of the fortress which has not yet been explored.
Preliminary Report of the Excavations at Aksha by the Franco-Argentine Archaeological Expedition, 1961

by Jean Vercoutter

On 10 January 1961, the Franco-Argentine Archaeological Expedition began excavations at Aksha, some 20 km. north of Wadi Halfa. Work ended on 17 March 1961. The party was composed of Professor A. Rosenvasser, Professor J. Vercoutter, H. de Contenson and A. Vila. The drawings were made in France by A. Jacquemin. The writer acted as Field Director from the beginning of January to 15 February. Professor Rosenvasser was specially responsible for the epigraphic work of the Mission and supervised the excavations from 16 February to 17 March.

The ruins of Aksha Temple⁰ have been known to Egyptologists for many years since the Swiss explorer Burckhardt saw them as early as 1812² and Gau surveyed the remains in 1817.³ Nestor l'Hôte, the French archaeological draughtsman, made some sketches of the temple in 1828–9⁴ when he accompanied Champollion to Abu Simbel and Wadi Halfa. Finally, Lepsius, in 1843, copied most of the texts that were then visible and some of the best reliefs.⁵ However, no large scale excavations were ever undertaken on the site,⁶ and since the

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¹ For Aksha bibliography, see Porter-Moss, 'Nubia, the deserts and Outside Egypt', Topogr. Bibliogr., VII, Oxford (1951), p. 127. The site is mentioned by early authors as Serra West; sometimes written Serreh.
² Cf. J. Burckhardt, Travels in Nubia, London (1819), p. 87 (quoted by Porter-Moss, cf. n. 1 above). Curiously enough, Fr. Caillaud, who stopped at Serra West village on 6 December 1820 (cf. Voyage à Méroé, au Fleuve blanc . . ., I (1826), p. 318), did not see Aksha Temple. Indeed the temple, hidden as it is in the midst of the sandhills, is difficult to find. Even on the aerial photographs, before the excavations, it was always difficult to locate it.
³ Cf. F. Gau, Antiquités de la Nubie, pl. 63 (quoted by Porter-Moss, cf. n. 1.)
⁴ Nestor l'Hôte, manuscript in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris, under the reference Fds Français, Nouvelles Acquisitions, nos. 26.402–278 (quoted by Porter-Moss, see n. 1 above). Champollion, however, the head of the mission, did not see Aksha—at least he does not mention it either in his Notices Descriptives or in his correspondence.
⁵ LD, III, pl. 191 and v (Text), pp. 186–9.
⁶ According to F. Ll. Griffith, ‘Oxford Excavations in Nubia’, LAAA, vol. 8 (1921), p. 97, the temple was cleared by Captain Lyons in 1895. Mention of Lyons excavations was made by Professor Sayce in RT, vol. 17 (1895), p. 163; but since the texts given by Sayce, loc. cit., as a result of the supposed excavations are even less numerous than those copied by Lepsius without excavation, and are the same ones, I doubt if Lyons cleared more than the outer wall of the so-called Hypostyle Hall, with the lists of foreign peoples as Lepsius himself must have done (and as I did myself in 1956).
19th century the temple has suffered severely from the depredations of the villagers, who destroyed most of those parts of the walls that were still standing to build saqias and houses. The extent of the damage can be seen by comparing the monument as it was when J. H. Breasted photographed it in 1906 with recent pictures. Up to the coming of the Franco-Argentine Expedition the site had never been guarded.\footnote{The extensive damage done to the temple can be seen by comparison of the photographs, Oriental Institute of Chicago, nos. 2361–5, with the existing ruins. All the brickwork has gone, together with some of the upper sandstone course. It is our intention to publish in our final report all the material seen on the site by travellers between 1812 and 1910.}

Aksha lies only 2 or 3 m. above the level of the Nile when the present Aswan Reservoir is filled, so that it will be the first site in Sudanese territory to be flooded as a result of the building of the new dam, south of the First Cataract. That is why the Franco-Argentine Expedition decided to begin its work in the Sudan with the exploration of the site.

Work was concentrated on two main objectives: (a) to clear and excavate the Ramesside temple, and (b) to explore its vicinity in a search for cemeteries. Accordingly, we divided ourselves into two teams: one working on the temple itself, and the other in the adjacent desert seeking to locate all possible sites related to the temple.

\textit{Work at the Temple}

Before the beginning of the excavations a trial digging was undertaken some 50 m. west-north-west of the ruins of the temple, to ascertain the stratigraphy of the site. The trial occupied an area 6 m. square. From the present ground level down to 0.75 m. we found superposed layers of sand interspersed with layers of dried tamarisk leaves, underneath which was a thin layer of blackened soil, then at −1 m. a still thinner layer of chipped stones. Below was a thick layer of pure sand. The layer contemporaneous with the temple, dated by potsherds, was found at −1.80 m. from the local zero. It was obvious from the thick layer of pure sand, that the temple, once abandoned by the Egyptians, remained unoccupied for a long period. This was to be confirmed by the excavations at the temple.

Aksha Temple was dedicated to the living image of Ramesses II by... Ramesses II himself. Without excavation, Gau and Lepsius had surmised, more or less correctly, that the monument was composed of a sanctuary consisting of three rooms or cells preceded by a small vestibule which they called ‘hypo-style’. In front of this complex was a pillared forecourt and, to complete the building on the river side, a pylon. This year excavations have, in the main, confirmed the guesses of Gau and Lepsius (see FIG. 1). However the central part of the temple is more complicated than Gau thought; for instance there is
no simple corridor surrounding the sanctuary as given on his plan; instead we have two small rooms built on the south side of the sanctuary. These rooms were given access directly from the so-called hypostyle hall through its south wall and not from the court as indicated by Gau and, after him, Lepsius. Secondly it is not certain that the small room which precedes the sanctuary proper was technically a 'hypostyle'. If, during the Christian period, two pillars in the shape of a cross (see PLATE XXXII, b) made it a true hypostyle, there is a possibility that in the Ramesside period this room was merely a vestibule, like that of the same date in Amara Temple. This is one of the points to be ascertained during the next season, when the Ramesside floor can be removed. This 'vestibule' or small hypostyle, whichever it may be, was once decorated with very fine reliefs, of which unhappily only very little remains on the north wall. Of the Sanctuary proper, nothing is left but the lowest stone courses of the walls, undecorated but for a few hieroglyphs (see PLATES XXXII, b, right top corner, and XXXIV, a), which remain to show that the door jambs were once decorated with the 'protocol' of Ramesses II.

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8 See his plan reproduced from Lepsius by Porter-Moss, l.c., vii, p. 121.
KUSH

The main interest of the pillared forecourt lies in the reliefs on its west wall, where the north jamb of the gate leading to the sanctuary is still standing (cf. PLATE XXXII, a). Again, unfortunately, these reliefs have suffered severely from destruction by the villagers—a tragedy.\textsuperscript{10} The best preserved parts of the reliefs are the lists of the Southern Countries on the southern part of this west wall, and of the Countries of the North on the northern part of the same wall (see PLATE XXXII, a, which shows the list of Northerners).

The forecourt proper was used as a basilica by the Christians. Breastled in 1906 saw, and luckily photographed, parts of the church walls with a vault still standing;\textsuperscript{11} it has now entirely disappeared. The only Christian structures left are: the foundations of the apse with a ‘podium’ and an altar in front of it (PLATE XXXIII, b); a coarsely built wall joining together the Egyptian pillars of the northern half of the court, with a small apse in the middle of it, and right in the middle of the court itself the remains of six pillars, four in stone, two in red brick (see PLATE XXXIII, a). From the shape of the stone pillars and the heap of broken mud bricks found at their foot, there is a possibility that they supported a mud brick cupola.

It seems that when the Christians built their basilica the Egyptian structure was already much decayed. In fact the Christians had to repair the lower courses of the Egyptian walls nearly everywhere. This repair work is very clear in the northern wall of the court since during the process they reused parts of an Egyptian scene (see PLATE XXXV, d).

As already stated, most of the reliefs are now destroyed, with the exception of a small fragment of a battle in the south: a fallen southerner is lying down and the wheel of a war chariot passing over him (see PLATE XXXIV, b). Of the scene described by Lepsius of the king slaying two Nubians in front of the god Amon,\textsuperscript{12} which decorated the south-west corner of the forecourt, nothing now remains.

The pylon, which closed the forecourt on its eastern side, was built of mud bricks encased in sandstone slabs, as we found in the dig; most of the bricks and all the slabs have been removed in modern times, but the gate which passed through the pylon was built of sandstone blocks, part of which has been preserved. In the thickness of the gate, on its north wall are the remains of a long text in hieroglyphs. The end of twenty-three columns of this text is preserved, and a loose block found in the debris of the pylon itself, gives some of the upper part of the same text. The first thirteen columns are a duplicate, word for word, of

\textsuperscript{10} As noted by Griffith, LAAA, vol. 8 (1921), p. 98, the process of destruction was still going on as late as 1921, owing to the fact that, for lack of a proper Antiquities Service in the Sudan prior to 1939, archaeological sites were not guarded. This explains too the disappearance of the Byzantine frescoes from the Riverside Church at Faras, after Griffith’s excavations of 1921.

\textsuperscript{11} Photograph, Oriental Institute of Chicago, no. 2362. Monneret de Villard, La Nubia Medioevale, i, p. 205, gives a plan of the basilica.

\textsuperscript{12} LD, v, pp. 187–8, numbers 8–9 on the plan given by Porter-Moss, vii, p. 120.

112
a. WEST WALL OF THE FORECOURT, NORTHERN HALF

b. REMAINS OF THE CHRISTIAN PILLARS IN THE VESTIBULE
a. NORTH-WEST CORNER OF THE FORECOURT AFTER EXCAVATION

b. FORECOURT, THE APSE AND ALTAR OF THE BASILICA
1. PRESENT CONDITION OF THE WALLS. ENTRANCE TO THIRD ROOM OF THE SANCTUARY

2. RELIEF, FORECOURT, SOUTH WALL

3. LINTEL, RAMSES II KILLING A SOUTHERNER

4. PART OF LINTEL, RAMSES II IN FRONT OF HIS OWN 'LIVING IMAGE'
PLATE XXXV

a. THE STELA OF PTAH'S DEGREE IN SITU

b. LOOSE BLOCK FROM THE SAME MONUMENT

c. INSCRIBED BLOCK FROM THE SAQIA

d. REUSED BLOCKS. FORECOURT, NORTH WALL
a. ROCK TOMB AT BEDIER, ENTRANCE AND PILLARED HALL

b. BEDIER, PASSAGE TO THE UNDERGROUND ROOMS
a. BOWL, C-GROUP GRAVE

b. ROCK TOMB AT BEDIER, THE VASES

c. MEROITIC GRAVE AS FOUND, SHOWING EVIDENCE OF ROBBERY: BONES BROKEN AND IN A HEAP

d. MEROITIC GRAVE, TWO VASES IN SITU
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT AKSHA

the famous Kuban Stela, but it seems that from column fourteen to column twenty-three the text is different. This is all most unfortunate since when Lepsius came to Aksha in 1843 this part of the gate was more or less intact and he published what is obviously the beginning of our text.

On the outer (eastern) part of the pylon and in front of its southern half, next to the south jamb of the above-mentioned gate, we found the two lower courses of a great stela, which was engraved on a sandstone wall built against the pylon proper and erected on a sandstone base (cf. Plate XXXV, a). Loose blocks belonging to the same inscription were found in the rubbish in front of the pylon (cf. Plate XXXV, b). The text is for the most part in poor condition. However Professor Rosenvasser has been able to establish beyond doubt that it is a duplicate of the Decree of Ptah, dated year 35 of Ramesses II, mentioning the building of Pi-Ramses and the marriage of Ramesses II with a Hittite princess. The Decree of Ptah was also engraved on a stela in the great hall of Abu Simbel Temple.

When the excavation of the pylon was finished, the present writer had to return to France, but Professor Rosenvasser, following the plan of work prepared, explored in front of it looking for either a ‘quay’ or a ‘dromos’ leading to the river. During this search another great gate was found, built into a mud brick wall, to the east of the pylon, and on the same axis as its gate (see Fig. 1). While starting to clear the area between the pylon and the newly discovered gate, one lintel and part of a second, of good workmanship (see Plate XXXIV, c and d), were found on the ground at the same level as that of the gate in the pylon, by the side of which was a great door jamb, broken in two pieces, engraved with part of the protocol of Ramesses II. The season was too far advanced to finish the excavation of this part of the site and the work was left to be resumed in October 1961. We have now to ascertain if the new structure is, as was supposed at first, a second pylon, or, as I now wonder, the girdle wall. If such is the case we shall have to follow the enclosure.

To summarize the work so far done on the temple: the sanctuary proper, the vestibule (or hypostyle), the forecourt, and the pylon with its gate have been completely excavated. In this part of the site it only remains to remove the Christian structures to enable us to study the Ramesside elements concealed beneath them.

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13 Cf. Porter-Moss, vii, p. 83, with bibliography. The stela was found in the temple of Ramesses II at Kuban.

14 Cf. LD, v, Text, p. 188 with copy of fourteen columns. The text must have been in a poor condition since Lepsius left most of the columns blank. Those fourteen columns all belong to the text of the Kuban Stela and not to the final part of the text found at Aksha.

15 Cf. Porter-Moss, vii, p. 106. The identification of the Aksha Stela with the Abu Simbel text was made too by Professor Rosenvasser. Various duplicates of the same text are known in Egypt, see Edgerton and Wilson, Historical Records of Ramses III, pp. 119–20.
KUSH

A disused saqia some 50 m. east of the pylon which had obviously been built with blocks from the temple, has been dismantled. One hundred and eighty pieces with traces of decoration or fragments of texts have been recovered in the process. Unfortunately the stones were nearly all broken into small pieces and no important text or decoration was found (see PLATE XXXV, c).

Next season work will be devoted to the full scale excavation of the newly discovered structure, pylon or girdle wall, and to the clearing of the area west and south of the temple.

Before leaving the work done at the temple, I wish to stress the bad condition of the lower courses of the walls which are still standing. In a Unesco report,¹⁶ Professor Gazzola estimated the cost of removing Aksha Temple at between 37,000 and 80,000 U.S. dollars. This estimate was made, as was pointed out by Professor Gazzola himself, when the temple was still buried in the sand. Now that it has been excavated, I doubt if it is worth undertaking such a task with the exception of (a) parts of the outside wall (western) of the forecourt (lists of prisoners, door jamb of the gate to the vestibule), and (b) the inside northern wall of the vestibule (or hypostyle). Everywhere else the lower courses of the walls have been affected by a chemical process of disintegration (see PLATE XXXIV, a), and they are in such a condition that I very much doubt if it would be possible to remove them without destroying them altogether; furthermore, with the above-mentioned exceptions, there is no text or decoration worth the trouble and expense of removal.

Excavations outside the temple area

According to the Licence to Excavate granted by the Sudan Antiquities Service, we have in the concession a roughly rectangular area covering approximately 8 square km. and extending northward from the west bank of the Nile to the Sudanese-Egyptian frontier. In this area, prior to our excavations, a Meroitic cemetery (24–I–20) had already been located by Mr J. Verwers, Unesco Expert, on behalf of the Sudan Antiquities Service, and, in addition, with the kind agreement of Sayed Thabit Hassan, Commissioner for Archaeology, we had been given the right to excavate the rock tomb of Bedier,¹⁷ notwithstanding the fact that it lies slightly outside our concession.

¹⁷ This rock tomb was spotted in 1956, while we were doing the first archaeological survey of the west bank (see J. Vercouter, Report of the Antiquities Service and Museums, 1955–1956, Khartoum, 1956), but we had then to leave it unexcavated as the rock ceiling of the tomb began to fall when we started to take out the sand which filled it. We had not enough personnel to undertake the job of removing the ceiling. While clearing the entrance to the tomb a fine granite shawabti and fragments of Mycenaean pottery were discovered.
PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT AKSHA

Our main aim, outside the temple area, was to try and locate the Egyptian cemetery. The chief difficulty is that great sandhills now cover most of the area around the temple. They sometimes rise to a height of 15 m. and more above the surrounding ground so that it is impossible even to try and remove them. If by any chance the Ancient Egyptian necropolis was, as at Buhen, adjoining the inhabited site, the chances are that it is now buried in such a thick layer of blown sand that it would prove impossible to excavate, even if it happened to be located.\(^{18}\) Faced with the impossibility of removing the sandhills behind the temple, we had to content ourselves with the exploration of the flat plain which lies to the west of the cultivations. Two new sites were discovered: an early C-Group cemetery and a settlement(?) of the same period. During the season, the tomb at Bedier, the C-Group site and part of the Meroitic cemetery were excavated. We intend before we leave Aksha to finish the Meroitic cemetery and to excavate a few A-Group remains spotted south of the C-Group cemetery. I shall now review rapidly the work done so far.

The rock tomb at Bedier was excavated by Mr de Contenson. The only possible way to excavate the tomb was, starting from the top of the cliff, to remove entirely the rock ceiling of the grave which was falling to pieces; this work took much more time than we had expected. When the ceiling was removed, the tomb was cleared. It consisted of a pillared vestibule leading to four underground rooms and a shaft (see PLATE XXXVI, a and b). The tomb seems to have been occupied again during the Meroitic period. From the original New Kingdom burial about twenty pieces of pottery (bowls, jugs and jars) were found (see PLATE XXXVII, b). One of them was inscribed with the prenomen of Amenophis II.

The C-Group settlement and cemetery were excavated by Mr Vila. Relative concentration of C-Group sherds was noticed in an area roughly 300 m. south-south-east of the Mosque of Aksha and about the same distance north-north-west of the Ramesside Temple, equidistant between the houses built along the Nile and those at the edge of the desert. The area covered by the sherds had been cultivated in antiquity and the soil levelled for irrigation. In one of the trial diggings Mr Vila found directly under the surface sand a complex structure of small pits, hearths, and holes dug in a line which possibly relates to a temporary human settlement. The few sherds collected in the dig were all from typical incised black and red C-Group pottery. About 100 m. from the above-mentioned structure was found a small cemetery. The circular or oval pits are now quite near to the surface (after irrigation levelling). They are dug into the Nile silt and hollow. Most of them have been destroyed by cultivation. However, three of them, a bit deeper than the rest, had still the skeletons \textit{in situ}; they were

\(^{18}\) Griffith, \textit{LAAA}, vol. 8 (1921), p. 98, notes that 'there are some signs of burials in the desert behind the temple'. The only visible and scant remains we could find were about 30 m. to the south-west of the temple. These will be examined next season when we excavate the nearby area west and south of the temple.
KUSH

in a contracted position. Judging by the pots and sherds found during the excavation, these graves seem to belong to the beginning of the C-Group culture (cf. PLATE XXXVII, a).

In the Meroitic necropolis (24–I–20) five graves were excavated by Mr Vila. All of them had been robbed in ancient times. However, twelve pots, decorated sherds, one iron spatula, and one copper ring were found (see PLATE XXXVII, c and d).

As already stated, the work ended on 17 March 1961. The Franco-Argentine Archaeological Expedition intends to resume its work at Aksha on 1 October 1961, and, when this is completed, to proceed to Mirgissa.

Lille University.
May 1961.

Notes relating to Inscriptions found at Aksha

I. bng3w not bn3w. A fragment of the stela containing a duplicate text of the Blessing of Ptah (see the Preliminary Report by J. Vercoutter, pp. 109 ff, above) shows clearly t3.wy (or t3 šm¢ mh¢w) bng3w m k3.k against t3.wy bn3w m k3.k on the stela at Abu Simbel (LD, III, 194, 12). Naville in TSBA, vii, 132; see now the copy of Černý and Edel made for the Centre de Documentation . . . du Caire). The parallel text at Medinet Habu reads t3 pn s3w m k3.k ‘this land is satisfied with thy sustenance’ confirming apparently for bn3w the meaning ‘satisfied’. Edgerton and Wilson (Historical Records of Ramses III, The Texts in Medinet Habu, 1–11) refer to the variant of the text at Abu Simbel as ‘The Two Lands “are satisfied” (bn3w) with thy ka’ (p. 122, n. 170), but marking ‘are satisfied’ as a doubtful translation. The Wörterbuch conjectures that the word in question should be read bng3w, the word bng (1, p. 464), with the meaning ‘überfluss haben an Speisen’, being referred in the Belegstellen to Anastasi, v, 15, 3 and LD, III, 194. The text at Aksha confirms beyond doubt the conjecture of the Wörterbuch, the meaning ‘The Two Lands are satiated with thy ka’ (or Substance) according fully with what is said in this section of the stela, i.e. the plenitude of goods created by Ptah for Ramesses II.

II. hnhmMt in the inscription on the lintel showing Ramesses II killing a Southerner (PLATE XXXIV, c facing p. 112 above). The inscription referring to this relief reads: nfr nfr sm3 hfnw hwi rst ptpt mht hnhmMt mi Nwt phty mi Mnt, ‘the good god who kills hundred-thousands, striking the South, crushing the North, one roaring like Nut, strong like Monthu’. During the Middle Kingdom and the New Empire hnhmMt is only attested as a noun with the meaning of ‘battle-cry’, or ‘roaring’; but it is found as a verb in the Pyramid Texts under the form nhnhM ‘to roar’ (Pyr. 1150 c, ‘He roars like Seth’). The use of nhnhM as a
verb or a verbal derivative (ḥmḥmt ‘roarer’ or ‘one roaring’) does not appear until the Greek period (Wb., II, p. 491, 2; Lefebvre, Gramm., p. 118, n. 2). It seems then that in spite of the parallel sentences (ḥmḥmt mi Nwt, pḫty mi Mnḥ) ḥmḥmt cannot be a participle in parallel with pḥty used adjectivally. This being so, it is preferable to suppose that the text was understood as ḥmḥmt(f) mi (s3) Nwt pḥty(f) mi Mnḥ ‘his roaring like (that of the son) of Nut, his strength like (that of) Monthu’. Antecedent to this construction is LD, III, 130, b, 1: ḥmḥmtw.f mi s3 Nwt (Wb., II, p. 490, 11–17). For the reference to Seth: Gardiner, Late-Egyptian Stories, II (Bib. Aegyp., 1), pp. 59–60 and Pyr. 1150, cited above.

A. Rosenvasser
The Epigraphic Mission to Kumma and Semna (1961) Report and Results

by Constant de Wit and Paul Mertens

Within the scope of the UNESCO campaign to save the monuments of Nubia and at the kind invitation of Mr Thabit Hassan Thabit, Commissioner for Archaeology, we spent the months of January–March 1961 in the Sudan in order to collate the hieroglyphic texts of the temples of Kumma and Semna, which are situated on the east and west banks of the Nile, at the Second Cataract, about fifty miles south of Wadi Halfa.

Our expedition was under the aegis of the Fondation Egyptologique Reine Elisabeth and was made possible by a generous grant from the Fonds National de la Recherche Scientifique (Brussels), to which Institutions we wish to tender our best thanks. We are also grateful to Mr Thabit and his staff for all the material aid which was given us.

The inscriptions of the temples of Kumma and Semna were—to a large extent—copied by Lepsius (cf. vol. III of his Denkmäler), in 1844 (cf. also vol. V of the Text, pp. 190–225, published in 1913). A few texts which do not appear in Lepsius were published by Dunham and Janssen in a recent volume (Semna Kumma, Boston, 1960), which constitutes the archaeological report of the excavations carried out on the site by G. Reisner between the years 1924 and 1932; as far as the temples are concerned this work has the merit of giving numerous photographs, among others those which were taken by J. H. Breasted in 1907. However, as far as the texts proper are concerned the book simply refers the reader to Lepsius.

We have collated all the texts on photocopies of these two works which we had taken along with us. We were also in possession of handcopies of the fragments which were included by Sethe in his Urkunden, iv, on which we also collated the temple inscriptions.

On the other hand, we found some texts either whole or fragmentary which seem never to have been copied. This is especially true for Kumma, where the hieroglyphs are, generally speaking, not so well preserved as at Semna, for which reason the draughtsmen of Lepsius were led to omit certain scenes altogether or to treat them only in part. It goes without saying that we devoted all our efforts to decipher and copy these unpublished portions.

In presenting the results of our investigations we shall follow the order adopted by Porter and Moss, Topographical Bibliography, vii (=PM), whose numbering we follow. Wherever necessary, we indicate the corresponding reference to Lepsius, Denkmäler (=LD) and to Sethe, Urkunden (=Urk.) or Dunham-Janssen (=DJ).
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

Starting from this basis it will be sufficient for us to mention the errors and omissions.

We shall begin with the temple of Kumma where our labours were particularly fruitful. We shall then deal with Semna and say a few words about the rock inscriptions.

I. TEMPLE OF KUMMA (East Bank)

COURT A

The north jamb of the door is still standing. It was not numbered by PM. One can still read on its west face (FIG. 1):

Beside it, on a fallen block which probably comes from the southern jamb, one distinguishes the beginning of a cartouche:

PM 1–2

The two jambs of this door are now (cf. DJ, pl. 50, B) lying in Court B. Of the text published in *LD*, Text, v, p. 207, only a few hieroglyphs remain (FIG. 2, a, b):
COURT B
PM 3

From this pillar there still remains on the north face a text which had never been copied. It bears two of the names of Thutmose III 'beloved of Dedwen' (FIG. 3):

On the east side, one sees Thutmose III before Khnum *itnw p\dwt*, above which we read the text as in FIG. 4.

On the south side, one recognizes right at the top a \[\text{[symbol]}\] and much lower a cartouche of Thutmose III 'beloved of Khnum' (FIG. 5).

Below this scene figures a text belonging to an official whose name has been hammered out. The inscription is given in DJ, p. 119. To this edition, we would make the following slight corrections:
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

Col. 3: there are three dots under each one of the $t\overline{3}$ signs: $\equiv$
instead of $1\rightarrow$ read $\square \rightarrow$.

Col. 4: after $\nearrow$ stands a $t \nearrow$
under the sign $t\overline{3}$ there are three dots: $\equiv$
under the $\equiv$ of $md\overline{3}$ there are three strokes: $\equiv$

PM 4
This pillar is mentioned in LD, Text, v, p. 214. On its west face one
should read in the left column (FIG. 6):

![Fig. 6]

On the north face there still survives a frame, without apparent signs of
hieroglyphs.

In the same Court B, there are two columns, which we can number ‘3bis’
and ‘4bis’. The first seems never to have been copied. It contains on its
east face the complete names of Thutmose III ‘beloved of Harakhty’ (FIG. 7).
On its southern face we find a text (FIG. 8) which is repeated on column 4bis
(FIG. 9).
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

The west face of column 4bis carried the names of Hatshepsowe, which were modified into those of Thutmosis II. *LD*, Text, v, p. 214 only gives the upper part. Here follows the complete text (FIG. 10):

PM 5

(This wall is reproduced in *LD*, III, 58).

In the left scene, at the end of the words of Dedwen, it seems that one can correct with Gauthier (‘Le dieu nubien Doudoun’, *Revue Egyptologique*, NS, II (1920), p. 23) [sign] instead of [sign] as given by Lepsius.

Between Thutmosis III and Dedwen, one should read *r šrt.k ntr nfr* with the sign D19.

In the speech of Khnum, col. 2, the second sign is [sign].
KUSH

PM 6 (cf. LD, ibid)
In the upper part of the consecration text, one should read:

PM 7 (LD, iii, 59a, middle)
In the first column above Khnum, one can restore

The three cartouches originally contained the names of Hatshepsowe. One can still distinguish an erased \( \Delta \) in the \( s^2 R^3 \)-title. Another one, today hardly distinguishable, probably existed under the word \( \mathcal{Q} \mathcal{Q} \).

In the first column of the words of Thoth, the \( \Delta \) of \( \mathcal{Q}^2 \) has been hammered out. Behind Thoth, one can still read

PM 8 (LD, iii, 58–9), Texts of Seny
One can accept the copy of Sethe, Urk., iv, pp. 141–2 (no. 56 A and B). It should however be noted that on the west jamb (Urk., no. 56 A), the upper third of the first column has now disappeared. On the east jamb, recent damage is still more important, as it affects nearly the whole of columns 1 and 2. In column 3, the sign \( \Theta \) is written exactly on the same level as the \( \Delta \) and not higher (as in DJ, p. 119). As to the word

which one should probably accept with DJ, ibid., only the two upper signs are extant today.
PM 10 (LD, III, 59a)

On the west jamb of this door the signs $\mathfrak{c}$ have disappeared. Likewise, on the east jamb, the words $Hnmw\; hw$ have fallen away.

ROOM C–D

East Wall (not numbered in PM)

This wall bears the lower part of a scene which shows the king standing before a deity holding the $w\ddot{s}$-sceptre. Behind the king, one can still read [handwritten text]

PM 9 (cf. Edgerton, The Thutmosid Succession, p. 6)

Of these texts of Hatshepsowe, which have been erased, one can still distinguish a few signs.

On the east jamb (FIG. 11):

On the west jamb (FIG. 12):

[Image of ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs]
KUSH

PM 11
On the lintel there is at the upper part a line which was not copied by LD, iii, 57a (cf. DJ, pl. 57):

In the lower line, the sign ḫṣr actually has two arms.

PM 12 (LD, iii, 57a)
In the third line of the words of Khnum, one still sees traces of a 𓊆 next to the ḫ.

In the second line of the words of Sesostiris III, one should probably read Ⲟ𓊆𓊇 instead of Ⲟ𓊆𓊆.

PM 13 (LD, iii, 57b)
In the title one can restore [𓊆] to the left of the ḫ.

In the column above Khnum, nothing today permits us to confirm the conjectures of Urk., iv, p. 212 (no. 79 A).

PM 14 (LD, iii, 57b)
The Ⲋ𓊆 restored by Sethe, Urk., iv, p. 212 (no. 79 B) is practically certain. However, between this word and the Ⲋ there is more space available than required by Ⲋ.

The second column should be read

[กด]

[กด]

126
In the last column ი is certain; the ი of Lepsius is a material error.

In the title, we propose to read

PM 15 (LD, III, 66a)
No remarks.

PM 16–17 (LD, III, 64b)
In the bandeau de frise, there is sufficient room for an მ before ht.f; cf. Urk., iv, p. 212 (no. 78 B). The determinative which precedes itnw pdwt (cf. Lepsius) is still partially visible, this in spite of Urk., iv, loc. laud.

In the left scene, one can still distinguish ل.ل above pdwt; above the central cartouche, one notices ზ; above Sesostris III, one should perhaps read

In between the two scenes the wall which covered the royal names at the time of Lepsius has today been removed (cf. photo in DJ, pl. 62).

In the central scene Lepsius has omitted ღ above the crown of Amenhotep II. Between the cartouches and the offering table figures the title

In the fourth column of the words of Sesostris III, we believe we can still read in the upper part.

In the fifth column, one should perhaps read
KUSH

IN THE SCENE TO THE RIGHT, below the wing and the name of Nekhbet, one can still perceive $\text{t}_3$. In the first column of the words of Khnum, one must read $\text{s}$ $\text{t}$ after $\text{dd mdw in}$; in the second column, one can still see one of the hubalis heads and, right at the bottom, $\text{r}$ $\text{t}$ $\text{t}$ $\text{t}$; the fourth column starts with

The title starts with $\text{r}$ instead of $\text{r}$ of Lepsius. In the words of Dedwen, we see $\text{r}$ $\text{t}$ at the top of the first column; in the second, we believe we can discern in the third, one should probably read two $\text{r}$ instead of the two $\text{r}$ of Lepsius.

PM 18 (LD, III, 64b)

The upper part of this door has fallen and the first two thirds of the lintel are now lying in Room C. A portion of the extreme right end of the lintel lies outside the temple, on the east side. The upper part of the left jamb is in Court E–F. One should read here $\text{r}$ $\text{r}$ and not $\text{r}$ $\text{r}$ as indicated by Lepsius. The two signs should also be inverted on the right jamb, still in its original place, where one should read $\text{r}$ $\text{r}$. On both jambs the cartouches of Amenhotep have been erased.

COURT E–F

PM 19

For the present location of the fragments, see above.

PM 18

One reads on the lintel (FIG. 13):
PM 20–21 (cf. DJ, pl. 66)  The text reads today as in FIG. 14.

king standing  Harakhty  king standing  god standing  goddess standing

PM 22–23 (cf. DJ, pl. 67)

Between Khnum and the four persons to the right, a column of hieroglyphs bears the text as in FIG. 15 (cf. PLATE XXXVIII):
PM 24–25 (cf. DJ, pl. 68)

This wall shows texts as in FIG. 16 (cf. PLATE XXXIX, a, b).
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

PM 26 (cf. DJ, pl. 69)

The whole of this wall bears the texts as in FIG. 17 (cf. for the central portion, LD, Text, v, p. 213 and our PLATE XXXIX, c).

Column (cf. DJ, p. 120)

It is to be noted that for the north face, DJ have not taken account of large areas which have been plastered, so that the text of this face, which is as long as the others, seems shorter in their edition: a large lacuna has to be inserted between the words ntrw nb and nsw bit.

On the east face, the ⦿ and ⬛ of swn-ib are inside the ends of the sign 𓊬 and not below it.

Architrave

The first part of the architrave—or rather what remains of it—is at present placed on the east wall above scenes 22–23. On its western face the two legs of the sign ⦿ are missing in LD, Text, v, p. 213. One must also add ⬓ before ⬑.

The second half of the architrave is still in its original place, between the column and the north wall. On its east face (cf. LD, Text, v, p. 212), one should add ⬕ between the three vertical strokes and ⬐. Of the sign under the preceding ⬐ only ⫤ remains, distributed on the two portions of the architrave. The whole should be read n hh n rnpw.t.

PM 27 (LD, Text, v, p. 213)

What we could decipher on the two jambs of this door is given in FIG. 18.

The second stone of the lintel bore hieroglyphs. On the right, after

one can distinguish the remains of a vertical cartouche, where ⚫ and ⬬ are still recognizable.
seated

god

offering table

king
KUSH

ROOM G
PM 28 (LD, Text, v, p. 215)

In the top line of the lintel, one should add a $|$ on either side of the central $\frac{1}{2}$.

In the lower line, the erased cartouches of 'Imn-htp are still recognizable.

On the left jamb, the bow of the $pdt$-sign is stretched by its cord.

PM 29 (LD, iii, 67a)

The three cartouches bearing the name 'Imn-htp have been erased, but remain relatively legible. At the top of the first column, we believe we can still read $\frac{1}{2}$.

PM 30 (LD, iii, 66b)

It is very difficult to distinguish the remains of $\dots$ $hprw$, as proposed by Lepsius for the $s\beta$ $R\epsilon$ cartouche on the left.

In the column last but one above the head of Khnum, one still faintly distinguishes $\frac{1}{2}$ in the upper part.

In the title, above the four signs of the offering, one should read $\frac{1}{2}$.

PM 31–32–33–37 (LD, iii, 67b)

PM 31: one must read $\sim$ under $df\beta w nb htp$ in the second column of the lower scene.

PM 32: in the upper scene, central column, the sign $hnt$ is written with three vases only.

PM 33: on the lintel, only the two $\frac{1}{4}$ of 'Imn-htp are still clearly legible; on the right jamb, second column, one should read $\frac{1}{2}$ and not $\frac{1}{2}$.
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

SANCTUARIES H and J

Contrary to what is stated in Porter and Moss, pl. 66c of Lepsius concerns Room H and not J.

Consequently, scene 66c left (two purifications of Khnum) corresponds to PM 39 (east side); scene 66c middle (incense and libation) corresponds to PM 40 (north side); and scene 66c right (dressing) corresponds to PM 38 (west side.)

PM 34

The text is to be read as in FIG. 19.

PM 35

The two titles correspond sign for sign with those of PM 39 (cf. LD, III, 66c, left).

The upper texts are as in FIG. 20.
PM 36
The title is identical with that of PM 40 (cf. LD, III, 66c, middle), but is written in one column instead of two. We give in Fig. 21 what we could decipher of the upper texts which are incompletely preserved and badly defaced.

PM 38 (LD, III, 66c, right)
In the title on the right, one should read $\underline{\text{A}}$ instead of $\underline{\text{R}}$.
In the title on the left, one should read $\text{rdit} \, \underline{\text{}}$ and not $\text{rdit} \, \underline{\text{}}$, as already mentioned in LD, Text, v, p. 216. Under $\underline{\text{x}}$, there is room for a $\underline{\text{a}}$, as on the corresponding wall of the other room (PM 34).
In the $\underline{\text{s3}} \, \text{Rc}$ cartouche, above the king, one can still recognize 'Imn-htp erased.

PM 39 (LD, III, 66c, left)
In the title on the right, the vase has the form $\underline{\text{v}}$.

PM 40 (LD, III, 66c, middle)
In the title, under the word $\text{wdn}$, one can complete by

\[\text{Fig. 21}\]
LOOSE BLOCKS
In the various courts of the temple, as well as outside, are a number of blocks bearing fragmentary inscriptions. We endeavoured to copy them all.

A. BLOCKS FOUND INSIDE THE TEMPLE PRECINCT
Court A
In the north-west angle, three fragments of a reddish sandstone bear the end of an inscription (FIG. 22).

![Fig. 22]

Court B
In the south-east angle, two blocks bear inscriptions as in FIG. 23, a, b.

![Fig. 23]
KUSH

Court C–D

From the door jambs which still separated the two rooms at the time of Lepsius, only two fragments survive (FIG. 24, a, b).

Court E–F

Cf. supra, sub PM 18.

Room G

In the pavement, partly under wall PM 30, an inscribed block shows its upper left angle. One reads there the text as in FIG. 25.

B. BLOCKS FOUND OUTSIDE THE TEMPLE

To the east of the temple, near the south-east pillar belonging to Reisner’s house, are three blocks giving texts as in FIG. 26, a, b, c (26, a, is in Kumma and not in Semna, as indicated by DJ, fig. 4–I).

To the west of Court A, near the entrance, a big block shows the king standing, offering Ṣ and Ṣ to Khnum, seated, holding the w3š-sceptre. One can still read there the texts as in FIG. 27.
KUSH

II. TEMPLE OF SEMNA (West Bank)

PM 1–2 (LD, III, 47a, b, c)

In the panel LD, III, 47b, one can still see to the left of the cartouche of Thutmosis III di śnḥ dqd and above the standard of the royal ka į√. Before the king, the determinative of šr[t is the sign D 19, followed by the possessive 鸨.

Katimala Inscription

We collated this difficult text on DJ, p. 10 and have many remarks of an epigraphical nature to make. However, seeing the difficulty of understanding the inscription, we prefer to refer to Grapow, in ZAS, LXXI, pp. 24 sqq. We would only mention that in a number of cases it is difficult to distinguish the a from the ā. The last columns of DJ are not complete.

In the inscription of the viceroy (LD, III, 47c; Urk., IV, pp. 39–41), we confirm the edition of Sethe for the first nine lines. In line 10, the mr sign is followed by the three strokes of the plural, but we failed to see any trace of the a restored in Urk.; the determinative of mty has the form given by Lepsius. The first legible sign in line 13 could well be the wr-bird (as in Lepsius) and not the ‘bad’ bird (as in Urk.).

PM 3 (LD, III, 47a)

In the upper register, the second preserved sign facing the Nile-god on the right is to be read ठा.

As for the inscription of Nehy, we confirm the edition of Sethe (Urk., IV, pp. 985–6) as far as the signs are still legible. One should however note that immediately after the name of the viceroy figure traces of writing which are not mentioned by Sethe.

PM 4–5 (LD, ibid.)

At the upper left end of the lintel, one can still distinguish the ठ of Bhdt[y, and above nb tʒwy there are still traces of nṯr ʒ.

PM 6–7 (LD, III, 48a)

On the right jamb, at the end of the first column, one must read ṭp tʒ with Urk., IV, p. 197 (no. 72B).
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

In the second column, instead of nb t3w nbt, copied by Lepsius and taken over by Sethe, one should read

\[ \text{[Image of hieroglyphs]} \]

PM 8 (LD, III, 48b)

In the right hand part of the first scene, the name and the image of Nekhbet have been erased.

In the offering-list, the ninth offering of the upper register is to be read without \[ \text{[Image of hieroglyphs]} \]. For the fourteenth, \text{idnt h3 nb} is just as possible as \text{idnt h3k}. In the central part of the last compartment of the upper register we believe we can still read \[ \text{[Image of hieroglyphs]} \]. In the register which was mutilated by the cutting of the door, the first sign of the sixth compartment must have been \[ \text{[Image of hieroglyphs]} \]. In the middle of the thirteenth, one still distinguishes an \[ \text{[Image of hieroglyphs]} \].

In the lower register, to the right of the door, the determinatives of the two \text{irp} signs are identical (M 43 with a little basin to the left); in the central compartment the sign \[ \text{[Image of hieroglyphs]} \] is situated at a certain distance above the vase and not on it, as in the drawing by Lepsius.

PM 9 (LD, III, 49a)

Under the boat of Sesostris III, we have the text (FIG. 28):

\[ \text{[Image of hieroglyphs]} \]

FIG. 28

PM 10 (LD, III, 49a, b)

Before Thutmosis III (49a, right), one should probably read
KUSH

PM 11 (LD, III, 49b)

The restorations proposed by Sethe (Urk., iv, p. 816, no. 223D) are likely. See also Gauthier, in Revue Egyptologique, NS, ii (1920), p. 14.

PM 12 (LD, III, 51b)

Under the offering table which is on a level with the standards one can still read

Under the lower offering table an ~~~~ still remains.

PM 13 (LD, III, 51a)

Behind the god Amun, after ʿṣj wr, one can restore 6[φ]. Before the vulture, Lepsius has omitted the signs  that figure twice above the cobra.

PM 14 (LD, III, 50b–51a)

Under ntr nfr (51a, left), one should probably read nb tzwy.

In the lower register, the animal has been badly drawn by Lepsius (50b): it is a horned quadruped showing its tongue and with the head turned to the left (cf. DJ, pl. 24). Under this animal we have a short inscription

PM 15 (LD, III, 50b)

In the upper left angle, next to the winged disk, the signs  have been reversed by Lepsius who gives .

PM 16 (LD, III, 50a)

In the title, one must add an ~~~~ before 'Imn-Rṣ. The ḫḥ-sign (above the plumes of Amun) shows the young shoot on the head, as given by Lepsius (omitted in Urk., iv, p. 564, no. 180V).
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

PM 17 (LD, III, 54a)
We confirm the readings of Sethe (Urk., iv, p. 575, no. 182X).

PM 18 (LD, III, 53)
The remaining traces fit well with the text restored by Steindorff (Urk.,
v, p. 201, no. 73D).

PM 19–20 (LD, III, 53–52b)
In all three instances, the name of Nekhbet has been erased; in the central
part, after ḫḏ, Lepsius ought to have drawn an oval and not the sign for the city.
To the right, in the word Ṣṯt, the arrow is much longer than Lepsius
indicates and is turned the other way.
In the last column of the words of Dedwen (LD, III, 52b), one must certainly
read š with Urk., iv, p. 200 (no. 73C, line 8), but the prisoner who follows
has no head, as Lepsius had clearly seen.

PM 21 (LD, III, 52b)
Above the goddess Ṣḏḏt, one should read ⲧ and not ⲧ as indicated
by Lepsius.

PM 22 (LD, III, 52a)
Above ṳ ṳ ṳ and the emblem of Nekhbet, one reads

but all these signs have been erased.
In the title, one still recognizes the base of an ḫ in the word ṫḫḫ.

PM 23 (LD, III, 55a)
In the names of Nekhbet, the first sign is of course ḫ and not ⲧ as
given by Lepsius.
In the inscription of Year 2, first line, one should read ‘ (day) 7 ’ and not
‘ (day) 8 ’, in spite of Urk., iv, p. 193.
Line 2: one can still see traces of the ḫ of ṣmr and, before ḫṣḏwt, one
should probably read —— and not ⲧ, in ṣṭy, the two strokes
are vertical;
KUSH

line 3: Sethe's restoration seems very likely;
line 4: the two strokes in ngty are vertical;
line 5: one can confirm the reading Hr-jhty of Sethe;
line 6: right at the bottom of the line there is an ☛;
line 10: one should probably read bdt x6 instead of bdt x5;
line 13: the sign ḫk3 is repeated three times before hwot, as Lepsius had
clearly seen (so, against Urk., iv, p. 196).

PM 24 (LD, III, 55a, b)

In the last line above the second figure of Seshat (LD, III, 55b), one should
probably read nt pr ntr.

PM 25 (LD, III, 56a)

In the upper part of the left scene, one can still recognize ☚ beside
the vulture and above the cobra ☚

On either side of the emblem of Wȝḏt, Lepsius has also omitted

In the words of Dedwen, the ☚ is lost above ☚. (Cf. Kumma,
position PM 5 = LD, III, 58).

In the same column, under the hand of the god, one must read ☚ as Lepsius had seen, this in spite of Urk., iv, p. 575 (no. 182Y) which gives ☚.

In the following line, the stroke after ḫm is—rather curiously—placed more
to the left than indicated by Lepsius.

In the upper part of the third column, one should probably read

In the upper part of column 4, one still sees traces of the k restored by
Sethe.

The formula sȝ ḫḏd wȝḏ nb ends with a sign ☚.
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

PM 26 (LD, ibid.)
To the left of the headdress of Month, Lepsius has omitted the t between n and Dwbn.

Above the emblem of the vulture, one can still see traces of hammering.

Under the hanging wing of Nekhbet, to the right of the cartouche of Thutmosis, one can still read mi Rc after di 'nh.

For the words of Isis, we confirm the edition of Sethe, Urk., IV, pp. 817–18, no. 223H), except that after wn, in line 5, the restoration seems too long for the available space.

Text of Nehy (LD, III, 56a)
We entirely subscribe to the edition in Urk., IV, pp. 987–9, which results from a collation by Steindorff. We have only the following reservations to make:

line 4: after the sign mh, Sethe has omitted the abstract determinative which figured already in Lepsius and which is still quite legible;
line 11: the second ib is perhaps a ठ;
line 13: the determinative of the last word (Sethe) seems dubious and could well be only;
line 14: in the last sentence, there seems to be no space for the restoration ḫṣt; the sign which precedes is perhaps छ instead of र and in ṣṭḥ the second sign could be ष only.

PM 27–28
On the east face of the pillar (LD, III, 54d) Lepsius has omitted the sign which stands between nb tủyy and irt (i)ḥt.

On the north face of the same pillar (LD, III, 54b), the name of Nekhbet has again been hammered out.

To the west of the temple, we have found parts of the pillars mentioned in LD, Text, v, p. 194. From the biggest of these fragments there remains only the first column to the left.

PM 29–31 (LD, III, 56b)
On the north pillar the sign which follows di n is certainly ग as given by Sethe, Urk., IV, p. 564 (no. 180W) and not ग as copied by Lepsius. Likewise, the determinative of the verb ḥr is certainly ठ� as indicated by Sethe, ibid.
LOOSE BLOCKS

In the east-west avenue of the fort, a big block bears inscriptions as in DJ, pl. 84B.

To the east and south-east of the temple a great number of blocks are to be found a few of which bear hieroglyphs. The most interesting of these shows a king offering libation and incense to a seated deity holding the \( w3\) sceptre; between the two persons is the text reproduced in FIG. 29:

In front of the façade of the temple stands an altar bearing the cartouches of Taharqa and Sesostris III (FIG. 30) (cf. DJ, pl. 37B):

To the south-west of the temple a block shows a great curved winged disk. Under its wings, one reads on either side of \( nb \, pt \) the epithets \( Bhdyt \, ntr \, s3b \, s\, w\).

In the same direction, but a little further on, amongst other inscribed blocks of no great interest, we have noticed, on the drum of a column, the lower part of the two cartouches of Taharqa.

In the southern rooms of the fort are one block (=DJ, pl. 87E) and two column drums bearing inscriptions. For one of the drums see DJ, pl. 88B, fig. 4-J and text p. 32. For the other drum see our FIG. 31:
Near the southern wall of the fortress, three fragments of door jambs bear the cartouches of Amenhotep II and Sesostris (FIG. 32).
III. ROCK INSCRIPTIONS

The main object of our mission at Semna was the collation of the hieroglyphic inscriptions of the temples. It is well known that on both river banks and especially on the east bank (Kumma), the rocks are covered with inscriptions containing mainly offering formulas and indications of the high Nile level during the Middle Kingdom. These inscriptions were published, after copies made by Reisner, in Dunham-Jansen, op. cit., pp. 130–69.

We wanted to take advantage of our presence at Semna to collate these graffiti as far as time permitted.

This work was not all easy for several reasons, the main one being the difficulty of locating the texts: the indications which are given in DJ are in many cases quite vague and the numbering which was given by Reisner’s team (by means of some white paint) has almost completely disappeared, probably as a result of the frequent sandstorms in this region. Furthermore several of these texts—and mainly the Nile levels—have been scratched in the rock in places which are not always easy to get at, which needs hazardous climbing. Besides, since the year 1930, several inscriptions have been completely covered over by rocks and sand. We could unearth some of these, but others we could not recover, not having the necessary equipment at hand.

In spite of these difficulties, we managed to find and collate about a hundred rock inscriptions, which represents more than three-quarters of the whole. Generally carved without much care, a great number of these inscriptions are in a bad state of preservation and we should pay homage to the patience and sagacity of the first decipherers, who managed to give some sense to what seems at first to be but an assortment of miscellaneous dots and strokes. This does not mean that we can accept all of their interpretations and in several instances it would be difficult for us to give good reasons for the discrepancies which we noted.

We have jotted down on our copy of DJ a number of remarks which are mostly followed by a question-mark; it would be tedious and useless to publish these here. So we shall content ourselves with giving some remarks which seem to be self-evident:

RIK 6: this inscription is written in two lines and not in one; the second line starts with the $t$ preceding the cartouche.

RIK 7: this graffito stands more to the north than the block carrying nos. 3–6.

RIK 10: this inscription dates from year 41 and not 42.

RIK 11: the $\Box$ of $Hp$ is much more normal than is to be gathered from DJ.
THE EPIGRAPHIC MISSION TO KUMMA AND SEMNA

RIK 12: (line 2) we believe that one should read instead of (cf. PLATE II, d); in the middle of the third line, one might perhaps read instead of ; in the last line, the vertical stroke in the is only a break in the stone. It looks as if the preceding n was never carved.

RIK 13: After is not correct; perhaps we should read .

RIK 18: after one should read instead of .

RIK 55: in the fourth line, the after is perhaps only a break in the stone.

RIK 60: the sign is in reality drawn taking the full height of the line.

RIK 81: at the bottom of the first column one reads .

RIK 84: at the beginning of lines 3, 4 and 5 there stands each time a square group not mentioned by the editors.

RIK 91: (line 2) under the n one should probably see two .

RIK 102: the first sign of the second line is .

RIK 120: after the editors have omitted the sign ; the first group of the second line seems to be .

RIS 21: (line 3) the sign must be drawn ;

(line 5) instead of there stands .

RIS 23: the sign which is discussed in DJ's note is certainly not .

RIS 24: the rendering seems very dubious; also the bird infra is perhaps not an m.

We believe that the rock inscriptions of the region of Semna should be collated again by a special expedition well prepared for this task, which could stay on the site for several weeks. Such a stay would enable one to find graffiti which have not as yet been traced; several of these seem never to have been published. We unearthed the text of an offering formula in the narrow path which leads to the Nile on the west of the fortifications of Kumma, between numbers 11 and 12–24. Also in Kumma, there is an inscription of nine vertical columns—unfortunately almost illegible—on one of the blocks which are to be found between the north gate of the fort and the Nile, almost halfway to the water.