The 2012 campaign at el-Hassa took place from October 19th to December 22nd.

This year, the team was constituted by Vincent RONDOT (head of the mission), Giorgio NOGARA (archaeologist and in charge of the archaeological training), René-Pierre DJISSAUX (archaeologist, instructor in archaeological training), Marie EVINA (PhD student from the university of Poitiers, mission ceramologist), Faïza DRICI (PhD student from the university of Charles de Gaulle-Lille 3), Tsubasa SAKAMOTO (PhD student from the university of Charles de Gaulle-Lille 3), Christine HEURAUX (archivist), Jean-François GOUT (photographer), Agathe CHEN (anthropologist). The NCAM was represented by Ms. Amal ATTIA, curator at the Sudan National Museum.

This campaign’s goal was to excavate the monumental altar identified last year in the dromos entrance, to resume the excavation of the southern building, to register the objects for the Sudan National Museum inventory as well as to photograph them for publication. Moreover, the very first assessments on preservation and promotion of the temple remains were carried out in the wider frame of a site development program.

The numbering of the objects for the Sudan National Museum was resumed by Ms. Amal Attia, museum curator and mission inspector. The objects from the 2008-2012 campaigns were registered and the 27 pieces that were selected for the museum collection have received a SNM number (35355 to 35369).

The archaeological training took place from November 10th to December 13th. There were three trainees this year. The trainee sent by the NCAM was Ms. Amal Attia, curator at the Sudan National Museum and mission inspector. For the first time, the Bahri University (former Juba University) sent a staff member, Mrs. Hana Abdel Hafer, teaching assistant of the faculty of archaeology. In addition, the NCAM decided to open the archaeological training to the archaeological services staff members, that were not under their administration, or the universities’, and the third trainee was therefore Mr. Fakhry Ahmed, from the General Administration for Tourism and Antiquity of Gedaref. For the third year in a row, the archaeological
training was open to French students, Ms. Faïza Drici (3rd year) and Mr. Tsubasa Sakamoto (1st year), PhD candidates under the head of the mission’s supervision.

On November 28th et December 19th, in the frame of the Sudan Archaeology Society’s lectures, two presentations were given by V. Rondot: one in English at the Greek Athletic Club entitled “El-Hassa 2012. What did the temple of Amun at el-Hassa look like?” and the other one in French at the Frédéric Caillaud French Cultural Center entitled “El-Hassa 2012. A quoi ressemblait un temple d’Amon à l’époque méroïtique?”.

El-Hassa 2012. Monumental altar in the dromos entrance during excavation. In the foreground, the collapse of the northern walls of the ramp (on the left) and of the podium (on the right). View towards the south-east.

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