Nubian Letters

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FOREWORD

When, thanks to the late Professor Erich Dinkler, we had our first meeting at the Villa Hügel in Essen in September 1969, we had no idea of the of the scope which the Nubian studies were going to achieve. Most of the scholars who had responded to Prof. Dinkler's appeal had participated in field work, either in Egyptian or in Sudanese Nubia, as a result of the 1960 appeal of UNESCO to "salvage the monuments of Nubia". The exploratory works of Somers Clarke and Monneret de Villard, excellent as they are, were by then a little outdated, so the chief interest of the Essen meeting was centred on christian antiquities. This is clearly shown by the very title of the proceedings which were edited by Prof. Dinkler himself in 1970: "Kunst und Geschichte Nubiens in Christlicher Zeit".

Since 1969 our studies have largely extended beyond the christian period of the history and archaeology of Nubia. In June 1972, at our second meeting, we gathered at Warsaw for the formal opening of the new Polish National Museum where the wonderful mural paintings of the Faras cathedral are exhibited. However, the proceedings edited by the late Professor Kazimierz Michałowski in 1975 under the title "Nubia, récentes recherches", include already a number of papers concerning the whole spectrum of nubian history, from prehistory to the Ottoman conquest of 1516 A.D. This trend continued at each of our meetings, at Chantilly in 1975, as well as at Cambridge in 1978, at The Hague in 1979, and recently at Heidelberg in september 1982.

It is a fact that nubian history as a whole presents a remarkable continuity. Recent anthropological researches in Saï for instance have shown that nowadays the population discloses the same physical features that are found among the skeletons discovered in the Kerma culture graves. From prehistory to the end of the christian period and afterwards, Nubia has been the link between Africa and the Mediterranean civilisations and Egypt, so that research work in any part of the thousands of years of nubian archaeology is of importance to the general history of Africa.

As agreed at Essen, our Society meets every four years in a general assembly. However, in a field of research as rich and as large as the nubian studies, four years are a long period. Accordingly, the Leiden members of our Society have suggested to publish "Nubian Letters" which will keep us informed of the latest developments in our branch of study. I am sure that such a letter will be a perfect way to prepare the congress of Coptic Studies to be held at Warsaw in August 1984, where a special section for nubian archaeology and history is foreseen, as well as to prepare later on our sixth congress to be held at Uppsala in 1986.

Let us wish "Nubian Letters" a long life.

Paris, June 1983
Jean Vercoutter,
president of the International
Society for Nubian Studies.

EDITORIAL

The publication which you have just started to read is the first issue of Nubian Letters, a magazine intended to provide timely information about nubian studies. Why? At the conference of the International Society for Nubian Studies at Heidelberg, September 1982, some people realized that the interval of four years between the conferences was too long to exchange up-to-date information. The time between, for instance, an excavation and the publication of a report of it in the proceedings of a conference can take several years. Nubian Letters wants to provide such information of current interst. How? By appearing twice a year as a cheap and quick bulletin, containing short communications concerning Nubia, such as preliminary excavation reports, short articles, the column Nubian Studies in Preparation, communications concerning the I.S.N.S. and related information. In principle, the length of contributions should not exceed 3 pages. To keep costs low and to enable quick publication, authors are asked to type their texts on DIN A4 paper with a lead of 1½ and a margin of 3 cm on both sides, an equal distance from

the upper edge of the paper and a distance of 3.5 cm from the lower edge. These type-written texts will be printed in off-set, as sent in by the author. That means that one will look in vain for a well-balanced lay-out and photographs as illustrations. Only line-drawings with a good contrast will be reproducable.

This first issue of Nubian Letters has been sent to all members of the International Society for Nubian Studies and others interested in nubian archaeology. We hope to continue to do so, but... this depends on our financial means. As the Society does not have a subscription, we have to ask for a voluntary contribution of $15,- (to be remitted to Nubian Letters, account nr. 25.72.24.645 at Bank Mees en Hope, The Hague; of course other amounts are welcome as well). For your contribution you will receive Nubian Letters biannually till 1987. Contributions for the next period of four years can be paid on the conference at Uppsala or remitted on the same account, but because of the high costs for cashing cheques we prefer the first way of paying.

This issue contains a summary of the paper of Dr. P. Gartkiewicz of the conference at Heidelberg, a preliminary excavation report from Prof. S. Donadoni and an article by Dr. E. Kleppe, apart from other informations. These give an impression of the sort of articles we would like to publish in the future. Be sure that we are eagerly looking forward for your copy for following issues!

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR NUBIAN STUDIES

Articles of Association

Name 1 The Society, which was founded in Warsaw on 22nd June 1972 by those scholars who had participated in the U.N.E.S.C.O. Campaign to Save the Nubian Monuments and/or had attended the Symposia in Essen in 1969 and Warsaw in 1972, shall be known as The Society for Nubian Studies.

Aims of the Society 2 The Society shall encourage and promote Nubian Studies on an international basis

a) in excavation work and in the fields of archaeology, art, history, topography, ethnology, anthropology, linguistics, and related studies;
b) by obtaining and distributing information concerning new discoveries, work in progress, completed studies, and current exhibitions about Nubia;
c) by encouraging the preservation of the cultural, artistic, and linguistic heritage of the Nubian people;
d) by bringing to the attention of younger scholars the wide range of Nubian Studies; and
e) by holding international symposia and promoting the giving of public lectures on Nubia.

Membership 3 New members shall be elected at a General Meeting held at each symposium on the proposal of two members of the Society. Membership shall be for life. Membership may be terminated by a member who shall declare in writing his intention to resign from the Society.

President 3 The General Meeting of the Society shall elect a President to serve until the next Symposium.

Council 5 The General Meeting of the Society shall elect six members from among themselves to form a Council to assist the President. Members of the Council shall be elected to serve for a term covering the holding of two symposia, save only that on the occasion of the first formal election to the Council three members shall be elected to serve until the next Symposium following their election. The Council shall have the power to fill an occasional vacancy for the unexpired term of office.

The General Meeting may elect a Vice-President to assist the Council. The Vice-President's term of office shall be determined by the General Meeting.

Secretariat 6 The Secretariat shall be determined from time to time by the Council of the Society.

Voting 7 All decisions shall be made by a majority of the persons present at a General Meeting.

Changes in the Article of Association 8 Any change in or amendments to the above Articles of Association shall be made by a majority decision of the members at a General Meeting of the Society. Ninety days notice of any proposed change or amendment shall be given in writing to all the members of the Society.

S C H E D U L E

Symposia shall normally be held every fourth year. Nominations for election to the Council shall be made in writing not later than 24 hours before the General Meeting to the Secretary of the Council. Each nomination shall contain the name and signature of a Proposer and a Seconder together with a signed statement by the Nominee that he or she is willing to serve, if elected.

In the event of there being more nominations than vacancies on the Council, a ballot by voting papers shall be conducted. The President shall appoint two persons to scrutinize the voting papers and report the numbers cast for each nomination.

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Doubtlessly, this list contains mistakes, incorrect spellings or omissions. Please be so kind to inform us of such mistakes, to send your correct adress to the editorial adress.

LA MISSIONE ARCHEOLOGICA NEL SUDAN DELL' UNIVERSITà DI ROMA, ITALIA.

EXCAVATION AT JEBEL BARKAL

The yearly work of the Mission has begun on March 12th and has ended on April 6th 1983. The programme we had in front of us was mainly determined by our previous explorations in B.1500, where during the past season we could state that it was placed on a platform about 1 m 80 higher than the surrounding level. Such platform appeared much wider than the building placed on it, and from the top of the Jebel Barkal one can easily identify its square plan concealed beneath the sands.

The northern front of this platform seems the nearest to the templar building, and has been partially uncovered in 1982 in its eastern section. This year we have reached its corner, which lies 32 m 50 from the axis of B.1500, so that we may presume a total width of the front of about the double, that means 65 m. The general arrangement of its structure and decoration could be considered: the wall was painted in white on a plaster which covered a curtain of red bricks enclosing a mud brick core. Every about 3 m a pillar, alternatively painted in blue and in yellow strengthened its structure. On this general arrangement three couples of large and elaborated framings put into evidence three special zones:the central one is just that of the temple to whose area corresponds,in the front of the wall,one of these framings of vertical elements in blue, yellow, white.The distance between the two elements is of 7 m 10; this is also the distance between the other frames whose exterior element corresponds to the East corner of the enclosing wall.Presumably the same situation is to be expected on the western corner.

It still remains uncertain how the encircling wall which insisted on this platform was connected with it:we have many fragments of bricks deriving from a top decoration, but we have not yet ascertained if they come from the upper level of the platform or of the walls on it.

Equally dubious for the moment are the original possibilities of employment of the columns whose drums and capitals are found among the debris of bricks.A very characteristic capital has been found near the East limit of the zone; its size is more than usual for the temple, its shape is vaguely reminiscent of a Ionic capital, and it is evident from its cuts and its plastering that it was not resting on a column,but was inserted in a wall, from which it protruded being bound to it through deep dovetails.

A section of the wall has collapsed in a rather regular fall: this has,for the time being,left untouched in order to use it as a test for our future reconstitutions. At first it gives the impression that the wall was repeating in its inside the same decoration of the outer side, being lined from both sides with red bricks (filling in mud bricks).On these walls some more decorative panels have been found, in blue or greenish fayence, some bearing the representation of a lion (or baboon?)on a lunar crescent (6 cases) or of human figures in tondos (6 cases).

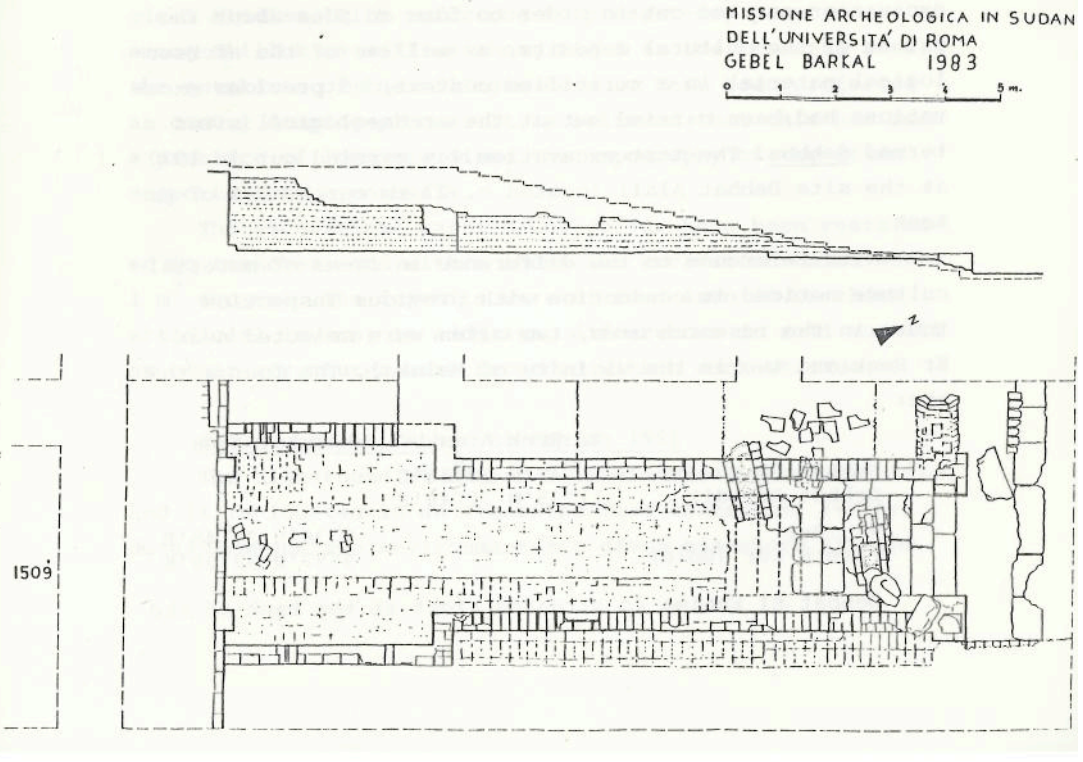
The connection of the platform with the surrounding flat country was secured through a staircase which, in 22 steps, leans to a sort of terrace already identified in our previous campaigns, just in front of the main entrance to the temple. From here must have fallen down the two statues of sitting lions which have been recovered in 1982. We have found one more on the opposite side.It is necessary to admit that the lions were in two couples to the right and to the left of the entrance. A fragment of a statue of a recumbent lion has been found at the beginning of the staircase: here too one must think of a couple of lions with architectural function.Only few steps of the staircase have retained their original covering slabs; they are 1 m 80 large, 0 m 40 wide, and 7 cm high.Two parapets in red bricks limited the building on its two sides.

As well as for the other parts of the temple, much destruction has reduced to little more than traces the built structures. One of the reasons of ruin was a small cemetery which has been situated in the zone. Only six tombs, much violated have been identified, apparently missing any funerary equipment.
In one single case, which has been better preserved, the tomb shows the upper part as a false vault made out of a series of three bricks each.

This report, short as it is, could not be complete without a mention of the friendly help of the Sudanese Antiquities Service: let us thank all it members, in the hope of a long future cooperation.

S. DONADONI

Karima, 7 April 1983



Towards a Prehistory of the Riverain Nilotic Sudan
Archaeological Excavations in the Er Renk District

By Else Johansen Kleppe, Department of Archaeology,
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Research programme

The field-work is a following-up of the research programme presented in Nyame Akuma 1979 (Kleppe 1979), also presented at the Symposium for Nubian Studies in the Hague in September 1979 (Kleppe 1982). Except for a small test excavation carried out in order to form an idea about the nature of the cultural deposits, as well as of the archaeological material in a stratified context, no previous excavations had been carried out at the archaeological sites termed debbas. The test excavation was carried out in 1977 at the site Debbat Alali located c. 27 km north-east of Er Renk.

With reference to the difference in items of material culture noticed in connection with previous inspection tours in the research area, two sites were selected near Er Renk and two in the vicinity of Malakal. The four sites are:

	Er Renk Area	Malakal Area
Debbat El Eheima	11°45'N 32°46'E	
Debbat Bangdit	11°35'N 32°46'E	
Wij Bur		9°36'N 31°48'E
Pareth Kur (Golo)		9°57'N 32°09'E

Debbat El Eheima is situated right at the bank of the

bank of the White Nile; it was chosen due to this and also because interesting information about random finds had been obtained here during my first visit to the site in 1975. Debbat Bangdit was selected because of its location on the main wadi in the Er Renk district, Casir el Abiad. One would assume that this water course had been active at the time represented by the archaeological deposits. The two sites in the vicinity of Malakal were chosen because of their proximity to the homes of potters, and because of information about deposits of pottery-clay collected during previous visits to the area.

The aim of the field-work in its initial phase was to detect sequences of archaeological material which could be useful for seriation studies, the main focusbeing on recovering data which could be useful in order to work out a chronology for the sites in question. Another aim was to recover data on subsistence economy. It was assumed that in such archaeological sites , the part which had functioned as a dumping-place for rubbish would yield the data needed for chronological studies. With reference to present-day practices among Shilluk as well as among Dinka in the research area, the outskirts of the villages seem to have been preferred as casual dumping-places. It is believed that this has been a practice of long standing; the topography of the sites supports this hypothesis.

The excavations carried out so far have been restricted to trenches, and within these the excavation units were 1 m^2 squares. The deposits were divided into 10 cm thick artificial layers; in addition, differences in soil as well as other structures were recorded within each stratum.

Field-work at Debbat El Eheima 1981

The highground at Debbat El Eheima is a prominent rise, and it is located in an otherwise flat landscape; further details about the environment are given elsewhere (Kleppe

1982). The excavation trench was located at the north-eastern outskirts of the site, this being the area with the most prominent rise. The trench was 12 m long and 1 m wide, and its direction was ENE-WSW; this meant that it covered the highest as well as the lowest part of the habitation mound. The cultural deposits turned out to be 2 m deep.

Our assumption that the excavation trench might cover parts of a rubbish heap, perhaps a kitchen midden, proved to be correct. Bone material as well as shells were abundant and so were ceramic objects, primarily potsherds. Parts of two burials were recovered in the trench. In both cases the graves had been covered by a layer of big potsherds: the layer was at least 25 cm thick. It may be a feature indicative of ethnic affiliation. Skeletal remains were found just below the sherd concentrations. Some personal adornments like a bracelet of brass and 214 ostrich eggshell beads could be associated with the burial in squares 6 and 7. The position of the deceased could in both cases be reconstructed.

The archaeological material from Debbat El Eheima

The archaeological material revealed was abundant and of a varied nature. Osteological material as well as shell fragments abounded, primarily in the lowest part of the trench and in the deeper deposits. Potsherds were numerous; throughout the excavation trench 33,965 sherds were recorded. Besides, several nearly complete pots were found. Stone artefacts were scattered throughout the excavation area; they were, however, not numerous and only amount to 1,030 artefacts, including 70 fragments of grinders and 14 hammerstones. Fragments of 40 objects of iron were recorded, the majority of which were from the upper part of the deposits; only 4 fragments were found deeper than 90 cm below the surface, and none below 1.30 m. A number of personal adornments were unearthed, among which were ceramic bracelets

(17 fragments), shell pendants (31 fragments) and beads of various raw materials: ceramic (19 pieces), glass (1 piece) and ostrich eggshell (240 pieces). A few unidentified fragments of organic material and some fragments of galous, i.e. dried mud used in house-building, were also included.

Field-work at Debbat Bangdit 1983

The archaeological site appears as a prominent highground located c. 300 m south-east of the Gasir el Abiad which runs into the White Nile c. 4 km south of Er Renk. The gasir is c. 40 km long and its major part is running parallel to the White Nile.

The excavation trench was located on the western side of the highground and was located on a clear slope. The most prominent slope of the site is located approximately 100 m further north and also on the western side of the highground. This area was, however, too close to the road crossing the site, and this area was rejected for practical reasons. The excavation trench was 7 m long and 1 m wide, and its direction was E-W, i.e. the trench was following the slope. The cultural deposits were 1.90 m deep at the part of the trench with the highest elevation, and at the part with the lowest elevation natural deposits had not been reached at a depth of 2.60 m. In this case, also, the excavation trench covered parts of a rubbish heap. Osteological material and shells abounded, and pottery was plenty throughout the excavation trench. Five graves were recovered, of these two were totally excavated while only parts of the remaining three were excavated. All graves were covered with thick layers of potsherds, and one of them contained an infant burial. The potsherd cover of this burial was 60 cm x 12-20 cm, its longitudinal direction running E-W. Skeletal remains were found immediately below the 10 cm thick potsherd cover. The orientation of the skeleton was E-W with the skull towards west and facing southwards, and it was resting on natural deposits. Beads were found in connection with all burials. A

double necklace of ostrich eggshell beads, together with a few green glass beads and a few red ceramic beads, was found around the neck of the infant. In addition, an anklet of ostrich eggshell beads was found in connection with this burial.

The archaeological material from Debbat Bangdit

The archaeological material unearthed at Debbat Bangdit shows similarities with that from Debbat El Eheima. Throughout the excavation trench osteological material and shells were abundant. Potsherds were numerous, in total 30,229 sherds were recorded. In addition, 9 complete pots were found. Other ceramic objects included fragments of 2 miniature pots, 2 game pieces, 15 fragments of figurines, 4 big beads and 3 spindle whorls. Stone artefacts were found; they amount to 261 artefacts totally, including 56 fragments of grinders (of these 8 had in addition been used as hammerstones) and 4 hammerstones. Very few iron objects were found at Debbat Bangdit. A total of 21 fragments were recorded, possibly only representing 11 objects in all. The iron objects were scattered all over the excavation trench. In addition ferroneous pieces of sedimentary rock, so-called kankar, appeared throughout the trench, these may have been collected for iron making. 5 bone objects were recovered, among these 1 bone harpoon. Personal adornments were found, among these were shell pendants (12 pieces), big shell or ostrich eggshell beads (4 pieces) and other small beads of various raw materials: ceramic (53 pieces), glass (19 pieces) ostrich eggshell (671 pieces). 14 big shells, possibly used in pottery making were found. In addition fragments of galous were found all over the excavation trench.

Preliminary conclusions

So far, only one ^{14}C dating from the archaeological deposits at Debbat El Eheima has been processed. This dating is of charcoal collected in square 12, stratum 7; the sample was

taken within a distinct concentration. The dating (T-4562) gave the result 2,760±70 b.p. (uncalibrated, Libby half-life). Calibrated with MASCA it gives the result 1,000±100 B.C. The iron objects found within the excavation trench are scattered within the upper part and down to a depth of c. 90 cm, except for a few objects found in deeper strata. This implies that the introduction of the use of iron cannot be much earlier than the deposits in stratum 7, i.e. the ^{14}C dating may be taken as an indication of the age of this event (Fig. 1). In the context of African iron use this represents a very early date, and the question whether iron was produced locally is important for an understanding of the wider cultural context.

Two other ^{14}C samples from Debbat El Eheima are being processed; one sample of osteological material is from square 9, stratum 16 and one of shells is from square 11, stratum 17. Both samples are taken from close to the bottom of the cultural deposits, and these datings may provide us with an idea about the age of the prehistoric settlement at Debbat El Eheima. Various charcoal samples from Debbat Bangdit will be dated in addition.

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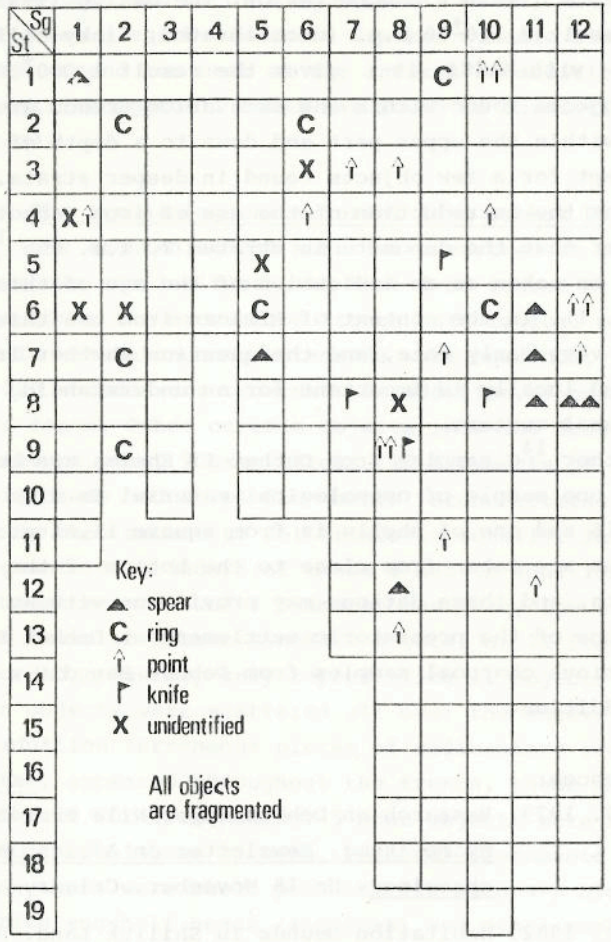


Fig. 1 Un 24. Debbat El Eheima, Upper Nile Province
Spatial distribution of iron objects found in excavation trench.

SOME REMARKS ON THE BUILDING-HISTORY OF THE CATHEDRAL IN FARAS

by Przemysław M. Gartkiewicz / Warsaw /

Almost exactly twenty years ago Professor Kazimierz Michałowski discovered in Faras the famous " Great Cathedral" with its splendid frescoes / K. Michałowski, FARAS Die.Kathedrale aus dem Wüstensand, Bentziger Verlag 1967/ The obligation to rescue a unique group of frescos meant that the architectural investigations had to slide into the background. The relics of buildings discovered were thus not examined exhaustively and records concerning them were limited only to the necessary measurements, which were supplemented - insofar as possible - with photographic material, which constitute today in a number of cases the only source of information. This fact that architectural matters receded into background, had its influence later on the processing of conclusions concerning the Great Cathedral, which is the most vital building among those unearthed in Faras.

The history of its construction, as presented in publications left a number matter open, to be filled in only by hypothetical conclusions. The number of questions and doubts concerning the latter, increased in step with the development of knowledge about Nubian church architecture.This was expressed,for example,by voices, which questioned the chronological order of the earliest period, the hypothesis that Ruler's Palace had existed on this site, and also the assumptions concerning the subsequent transformations of the cathedral /see,among others,Peter

Grossman, Zur Datierung der frühen Kirchenanlagen aus Faras, Byzantinische Zeitschrift 64, 1971,pp.330-350/. Discoveries made in the folloving years in Nubia brought hitherto unknown facts and brought to light the existence of analogies, which created fresh possibilities for interpretation. All of these factors pointed to the need for a reanalysis of the material concerning the Great Cathedral in Faras. Having undertaken this analysis, I should like to present the results which I recived.

I have made the careful and detailed inquiries about the structure of the cathedral building distinguishing several unobserved yet facts and remains of indyvidual phases of construction / fig.1/. In view of the lack of space, I am not able to present here my documentation in full on which the general statements are based. It will be,however, included to the enlarged version of my paper prepared for print in Heidelberg.

My observations indicate a possibility to interpret the history of the construction of the cathedral church in Faras in a different way than hitherto. In my opinion it presents as follows: many things point to the fact, that three basic stages in the history of Faras cathedral may be discerned: firstly - Cathedral No 1 - the first building of this type, erected on the site of so-called Mudbrick Church. The erection of the Cathedral No 1 we should connect with the establisment of the Bishopric in Faras, most probably in the first quarter of the seventh century. There has been hitherto a lack of a counterpart

to this building in any literature. Secondly - Cathedral No 2 - the second church of this type built on the site of the first one and partially utilized its structure.It was probably erected by Bishop Paulos, during the first decade of the eight century. Literature published hitherto has described it as the First Cathedral. Thirdly - Cathedral No 3 - a development of Cathedral No 2, inspired by the example of Old Dongola and, constructed probably towards the end of the eight or beginning of the ninth century. In literature published hitherto, it has been described as the Great Cathedral or the Cathedral of Paulos / I shall adhere to the former name/. To make easier the comparison between the obligated hitherto and the new proposed chronology and names of Faras cathedral, I compare them with the main stone structures which have been recognized in the cathedral building /fig. 2/.

Now I shall move on to discuss succesive stages.

CATHEDRAL NO 1

We should include among the most important guidelines confirming its existence, the presence of the stone wall under the southern wall of the First Cathedral, as well as the method of planning the foundations under the supports in the naos, not corresponding with the outline of its walls /fig.3/. The surprising parallelism of the northern and southern parts of these foundations to the above-mentioned wall indicate, however, a mutual dependency between these two structures as well as their being constructed most probably at the same time. The oblique

course of the western section of the foundations may suggest a similar outline for the plan of Cathedral No 1 as in the Old Church at Qasr Ibrim/P. Gartkiewicz, Remarks on the cathedral at Qasr Ibrim,NUBIAN STUDIES, Cambridge 1978,p.92, fig.2/. The next argument supporting this cathedral's existence can be found in the eastern part of the First Cathedral. Thus it seems, that the lowest course of stone blocks, moved foreward in respect to the face of the upper courses, is the remains of the earliest apse, for which stone pavement was laid /fig.4/. The laying of the floor slabs, and placing of the holes left by the altar and cyborium, indirectly indicate that course of the eastern wall of the naos of the Cathedral No 1, was different to the same wall of the First Cathedral. This illustrates, that both te apse and the whole eastern part of Cathedral No 1 deflected slightly more to the north than the western part of this building. This bend in the main axis of the church has a close analogy in the wery early Old Church in Old Dongola /P. Gartkiewicz, Stary Kościół w Dongoli..,Kwartalnik Architektury i Urbanistyki XVIII,3/4, Warszawa 1973, fig.30 /in polish/. On the other hand, the elongate outline of the apse, and its being partitioned off from the nave by the altar and cyborium, suggests the presence of side-doors leading into the interior of the apse directly from the prothesis and diaconicon / fig.5/. Such was the solution in the Old Church at Qasr Ibrim.

One argument more indirect is the discovery both in

Faras and at Ibrim, of the remains of friezes bearing eagles, undoubtedly belonging in both cases to the decoration of apses /E. Dinkler, Beobachtungen zur Ikonographie des Kreuzes in der nubischen Kunst, Nubia, Récentes Recherches, Varsovie 1975, fig.12; J.M.Plumley, Some examples of Nubian art from the excavations at Qasr Ibrim, Kunst und Geschichte Nubiens in Christlicher Zeit,Recklinghausen 1970, pp.129-140/. Despite of formal differences, these friezes must have come into being during a very short period of time, since they represent the same spatial composition. A close probability, that this element belonged to the Old Church at Qasr Ibrim confirms the hypothesis about the existence of an analogous arrangement in the apse of the Cathedral No 1, and suggests also that the two building discussed were erected in the similar time.

Apart from the frieze, it is possible to connect with the interior design of the Cathedral No 1 four half-columns with monolithic shafts and richly profiled bases, most probably comming from an apse, and which were reused in one of the later buildings in the vicinity of the Great Cathedral. In style and method of sculptured treatment they seem to have more in common with the frieze with the eagles, and in addition they posses a more autonomous character, less integrated with the architectural design than was the case with half-column preserved in the apse of the First Cathedral/ fig.6/. These four discussed elements indicate also closer similarity to the columnar de-

coration of Egyptian apses, than that one in the apse of the First Cathedral, which gives an impression of a transposition considerably more transformed and distant from Egyptian solution /for example the composition of the apse of Deir-el-Abiad near Sohag, see E.Krautheimer, Early Christian and Byzantine Architecture, Penguin Books,1965, pl.27/.

Finally there are also the fragments of building stones originating from sandstone column shafts. They were unearthed in Faras, and may be, they were connected with the columns belonging to Cathedral No. 1.

CATHEDRAL NO 2

The definition of the main outline of walls of the First Cathedral as the remains left from the second in line church building - Cathedral No 2 /fig. 7/ - was based myself, on the close connections the model of stonework with the next chronologically period of this activity, confirmed - according to my opinion - at Qasr Ibrim by the building of the Great Cathedral, and the erection in Faras of Rivergate Church as well as the pillar with the missionary cross / fig.8/.

The fact, that the construction of Cathedral No 2 has been described to Bishop Paulos is connected with the existence of four foundation inscriptions by that dignitary /S. Jakobielski, FARAS III, A history of the Bishopric of Pachoras, Warszawa 1972, pp.35-51/. It is the opinion of dr. Jakobielski, that they refer to one and the same building, which was a bishopric church in character. All

of these inscriptions were placed on architectural elemets that is building blocks /two/ and door lintels /next two/, which defines univocaly their direct - it may be said physical - unity with the building which they were meant for. The fact that they were found beyond the site of the Great Cathedral, in different places and acting as spoliae / first two/ preclude any possibility of their having been connected with that building. The later replacing of two of these inscriptions / incised on building blocks/ in place exceptionally well exposed - in the walls of building undoubtedly contemporary with the Great Cathedral - defines clearly the time, when the cathedral building erected by Bishop Paulos / Cathedral No 2/ was dismanteled. At the same time this fact indicated unambigiously the identity of cathedral built by Paulos with the walls of so-called First Cathedral. Further support for this meaning is a keystone bearing the monogram of above mentioned bishop, found also among the rubble. An element of this type with a definite part to play could only have been placed originally in the archway of a door opening of a shape such as we may see in the Great Cathedral at Qasr Ibrim, in the Rivergate Church in Faras or even as far to the south as the monastery church at el-Ghazali. In spite of the lack of direct proof, this analogy - confirmed by the identical treatment of door-jambs in all of the above mentioned buildings as well as in the First Cathedral in Faras - grows into an very important argument. This is also indicated by the fact that those buildings

were erected relatively in about the same time.It should be mentioned here, that the doors of the Great Cathedral were constructed on a complete different way than those described above.

Cathedral No 2 must have posessed an apse with inner face of its wall decorated with half-columns standing on the socle /fig.9/. It was somewhat wider and shorter than the earlier one, and this all indicates, that acces to it was possible only from the nave. Its axis deviates now slightly to the south, in accordance with main axis of the whole building/fig.7/. Within the apse, the old pavement was preserved, and completed when necessary, with new stone slabs or with mud mortar. The above described apse decoration, and, on the other hand, the untypical position of the face of later tribune, suggest, that the wall corners of the apse were contained also an architectural articulation. It is possible, that standing here were the columns of a triumphal arch. The position of preserved corner stones, laying lower than others in the layer,suggests, that they were more loaded, perhaps by the free-standing shafts of columns supporting this archway.

I would like here one more conclusion connected - as I think - with the building of the cathedral by Bishop Paulos. This is, that both at Qasr Ibrim and in Faras we come across the same, extremely original custom of commemorating a dismanteled earlier building, emphasizing the ideological link between the newly erected church and its predecessor. In both cases, the symbol of that continuity

- and at the same time mystic unity - is the most important ideological element, most characteristic amid the decoration motives of the most important interior of the former church - a fragment of the frieze with the eagles, taken from the dismanteled apse. In the first case, it was set into the wall into specially cut out blocks of the new apse wall, exactly on the main axis of the Great Cathedral, in the second - a block bearing the eagles was placed identically in the pillar of missionary cross, most probably erected especially for this purpose, using the same masonry method as the walls of the above-mentioned group of churches /fig.10/. The later placing of blocks with foundation inscriptions from the dismanteled building of Bishop Paulos, confirms utterly the custom of commemorating succesive cathedrals and its extreme vitality /see K. Michałowski, FARAS, op. cit,pl.14/. I should underline, that in my opinion the way of dressing these blocks - on which the inscriptions were placed - does not indicate that they had originally been allocated for exposition of this kind. Both of these stones looks to be rather prepared to lay them into foundations at a ceremony to celebrate the founding of a building, than to leave the inscriptions conspiciously.

Cathedral No 2 must have been used for a long period of time. Evidence of this is the re-building of the podium before the main entrance, and within the apse - the placing of the tribune and the later change in the shape of its uppermost tier, defined with the name of "throne"

or "podium". This last change must have taken place during the period when the earlier sculptured interior treatment gave way to the introduction of murals. This is confirmed by the presence of a fresco with rich decoration and expanded subject matter. In addition, is necessary to mention, that the shape of the tribune was in some fragments very uncommon. On the basis of traces surviving as negative, it may be stated, that on either side of the way up to the first step, there were two stone piers or pedestals, bearing supposingly the pulpits or an other structure framing the entrance to the tribune.

CATHEDRAL NO 3

From the above reasoning it follows, that the enlargement of the Cathedral No 2, described hitherto as the Great Cathedral or the Paulos Cathedral, must have taken place relatively late. Evidence of this is also a picture of building method, which has numerous analogies in late construction and re-building works in Faras and Qasr Ibrim, made during the latest period in which stonework was utilized in Nubian building activity. These extention works, were carried out only for a few years after the erection of the Church of Granite Columns in Old Dongola, with far-reaching simplifications in respect to the model solution. This was a time - it may be supposed - when figural painting was already the order of the day, in at least major centres, if not throughout the whole Nubia. The uniformity of the original painted decoration of the Cathedral No 3 indicates clearly, that it was executed

directly after construction works were completed. The period of the episcopate of Bishop Ignatios - suggested by dr. Jakobielski - seems to be earliest feasible date for this enlargement, amid those possible.

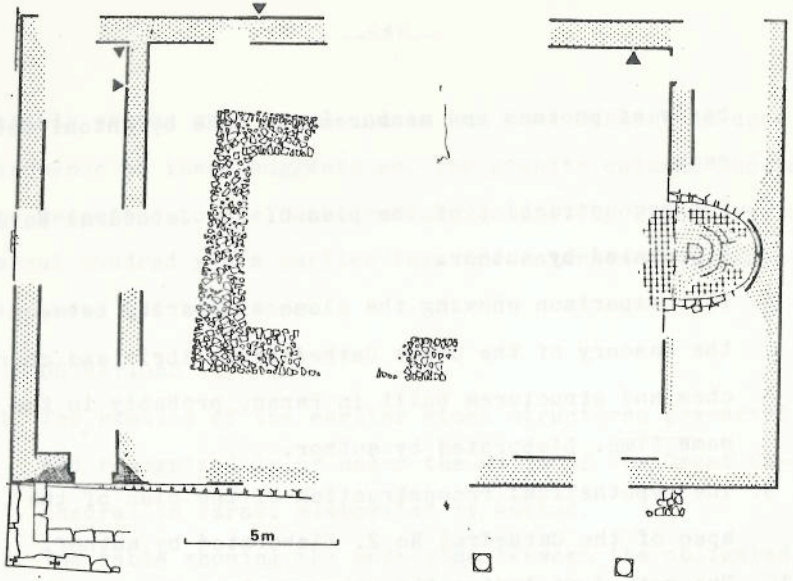
The analysis of the structures, constructions and building methods, used during this rebuilding, schows, that the works were carried out comparatively quick, and in very simple and chary in doing manner. In this light, it is extremely difficult to imagine, that twelve granite columns, together with their capitals and bases - such were used in the Great Cathedral - could have been produced especially for this building, and in a similar short time. Such an undertaking conflicts with the character and economical program of the construction scheme. Everything seems to point to the fact, that those supports - as whole stone material - also were re-used with only one difference, at that is, that they were juxtaposed in a different layout, than previously. An additional argument confirming this, is the notion introduced by the manner of setting up te bases. Some of them were placed directly on the former pavement of the Cathedral No 2, while others were let deep into the flooring, in such a way as to compensate for the varied shaft lenghts and bases hights /fig.12/. A similar mode of action was observed in the Church of Granite Columns in Old Dongola, where one can not exclude a possibility, that even these supports were also re-used. In opposite of this manner, the bases of the Great Cathedral at Qasr Ibrim were set up very pre-

cisely on the same level and in the same manner. In consequence of these suggestions, the granite columns should be described to the Cathedral No 2, built by Bishop Paulos about hundred years earlier than the enlargement discussed here has been done.

ILLUSTRATIONS

1. The remains of the earlier stone structures preserved and recognized in, or under the walls of the Great Cathedral in Faras. Elaborated by author.
2. The table showing the relations between the obligated and proposed names of the subsequent cathedral buildings in comparison with the main structures and other contemporary buildings in Nubia. Elaborated by author.
3. A hypothetical scheme of the plan of the Cathedral No 1. Elaborated by author.
4. The plan of the remains of the apse of the Cathedral No 2. The state after the dismanteling the rests of mud brick tribune. Elaborated by author on the basis of the measurements made by Antoni Ostrasz.
5. A hypothetical reconstruction of the plan of the apse of the Cathedral No 1. The arrows show the supposed position of the doors leading from prothesis and diaconicon to the apse and altar. Thin line shows the outline of the apse of the Great Cathedral. Elaborated by author.
6. The cross-section showing the inner face of the apse of the Cathedral No 2. The state after dismanteling the rests of the tribune. Elaborated by author on the basis of photoes and measurements made by Antoni Ostrasz.

7. The reconstruction of the plan of the Cathedral No 2. Elaborated by author.
8. The comparison showing the close similarity between the masonry of the Great Cathedral at Ibrim and churches and structures built in Faras, probably in the same time. Elaborated by author.
9. The hypothetical reconstruction of the plan of the apse of the Cathedral No 2. Elaborated by author.
10. The method of laying the commemoratory stones with eagles in the face of the pillar with missionary cross in Faras and in the wall of the apse of the Great Cathedral at Qasr Ibrim. Elaborated by author.
11. The reconstruction of the plan of the apse of the Cathedral No 2 after the introduction of mudbrick tribune. A - the original shape of the "throne" B - the throne after the rebuilding. Elaborated by author.
12. The differences in the manner of setting up the bases in the Cathedral No 3 in Faras - a comparison. Elaborated by author on the basis of the measurements made by Antoni Ostrasz.

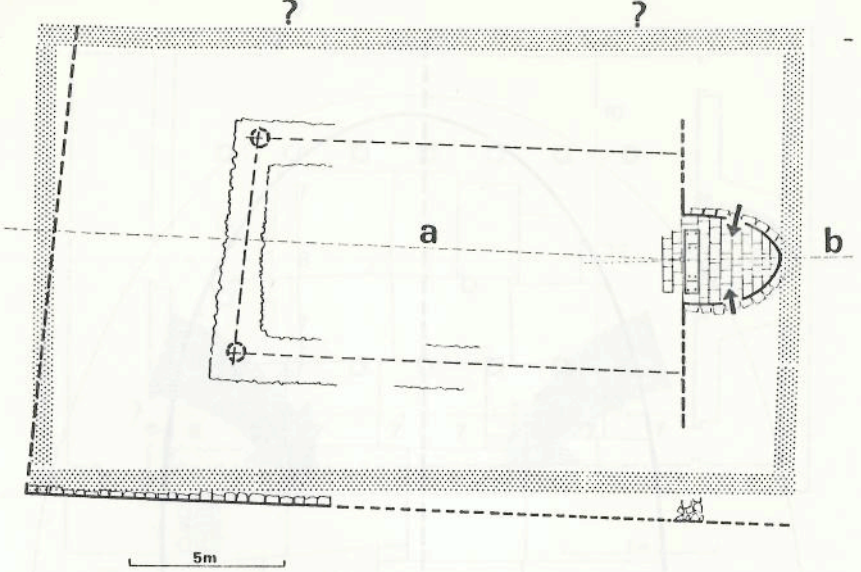


1

Foundations preserved below or in the level of pavement
Preserved stone pavement
Preserved walls and other structures upon the level of pavement:
- mostly to the high 1 - 1,5 m.
- occasionaly to the high 2,5 m.
Division-lines in walls

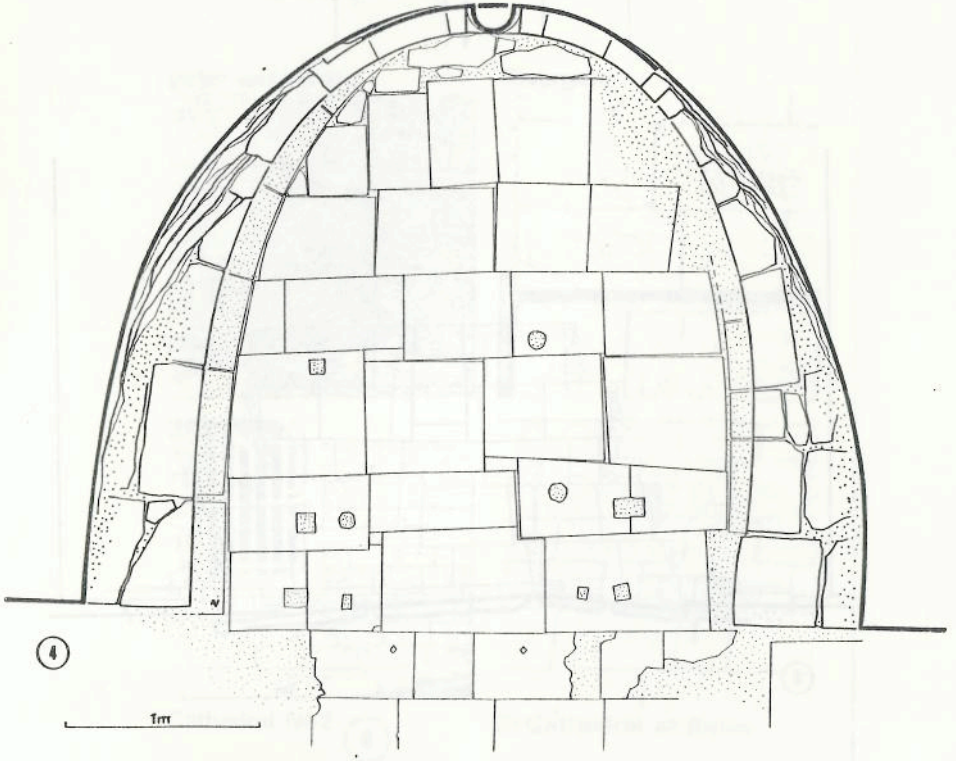
2

OBLIGATED NAMES AND DATES	MAIN STRUCTURES	PROPOSED NAMES AND DATES	CONTEMPORARY BUILDINGS
NOT EXIST	stone wall under the southern wall of the First Cathedral. Apse with stone pavement	CATHEDRAL No 1. about 2nd quarter of 7th century.	Old Church at Qasr Ibrim Church of Stone Pavement in Old Dongola
RULER'S PALACE 2nd half of 5th up to beginning of 7th century.	foundations on stone for supports in naos lower parts of the outer walls of the First Cathedral.	CATHEDRAL No 2. built by Paulos in the 1st decade of 8 century	Great Cathedral at Qasr Ibrim Rivergate Church, and Pillar for supporting the missionary cros - both in Faras
FIRST CATHEDRAL about 630 A.D.	two uppermost layer of pink sandstone in the outer walls of the First Cathedral. apse with half-columns and painting.		
PAULOS CATHEDRAL or GREAT CATHEDRAL 707 A.D. built by Paulos	mudbrick tribune in the apse and murals. granite columns. enlargement of the First Cathedral. rebuilding the old apse and building the new stone tribune.	CATHEDRAL No 3. end of 8th or beginning of 9th century	Church of Granite Columns in Old Dongola. South Palace in Faras so-called Bishop's Palace at Qasr Ibrim rebuilding of the naos of the Great Cathedral at Qasr Ibrim.
NOT EXIST	re-using and replacing of the old granite columns.		



3

a - main axis of the naos
b - axis of the apse
- outline of the Cathedral No 2



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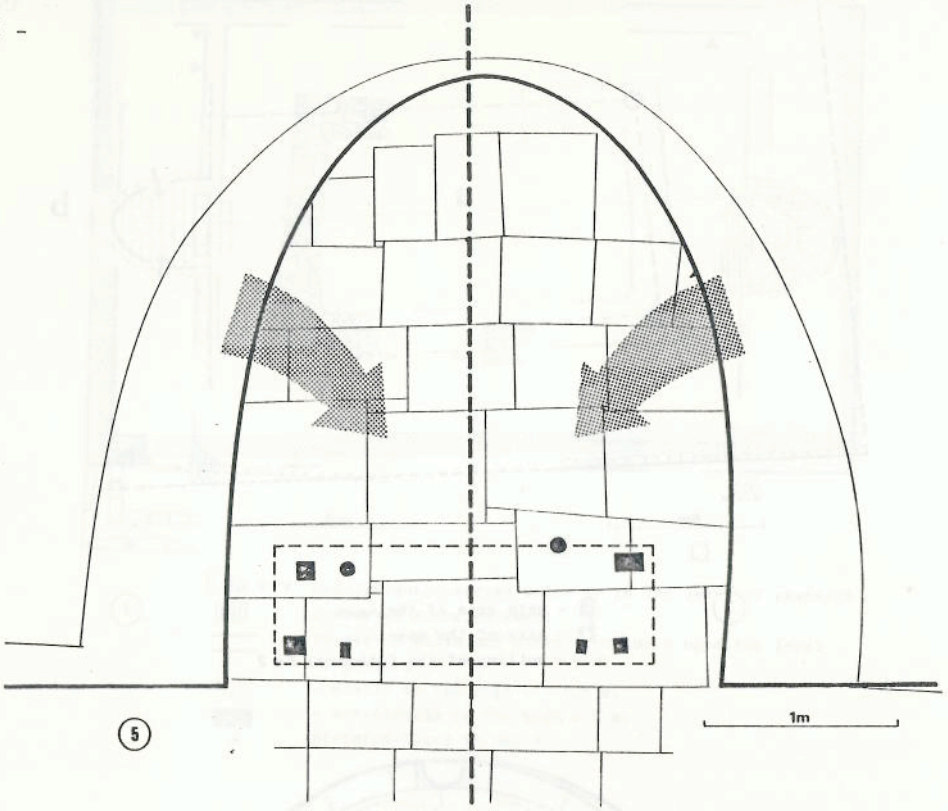

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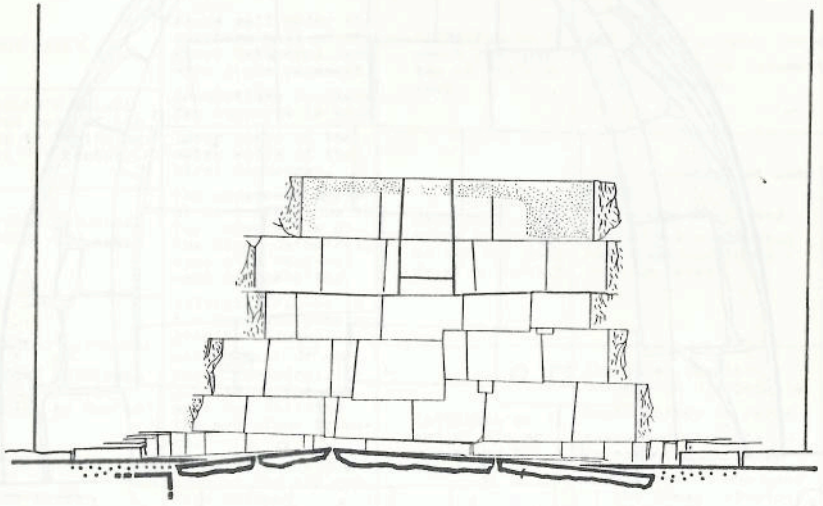

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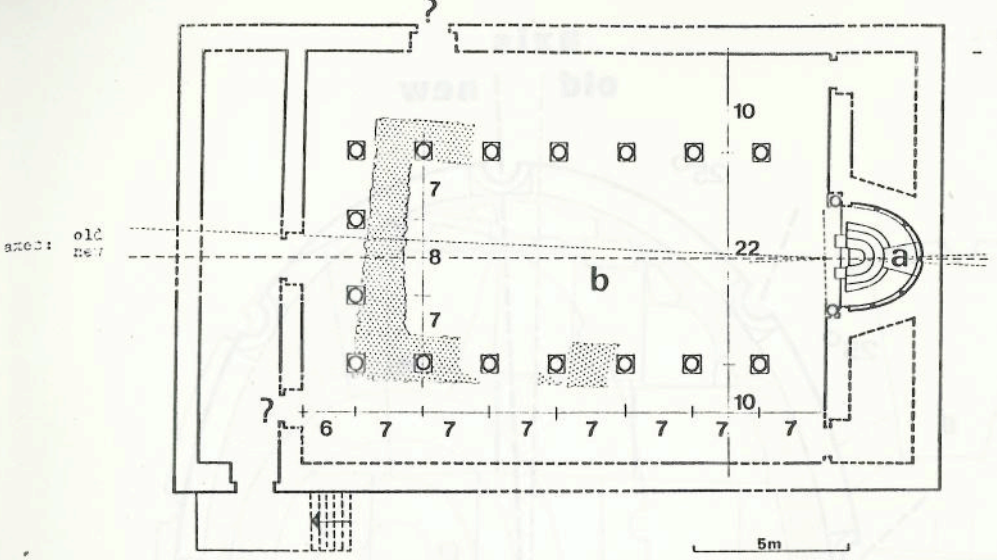
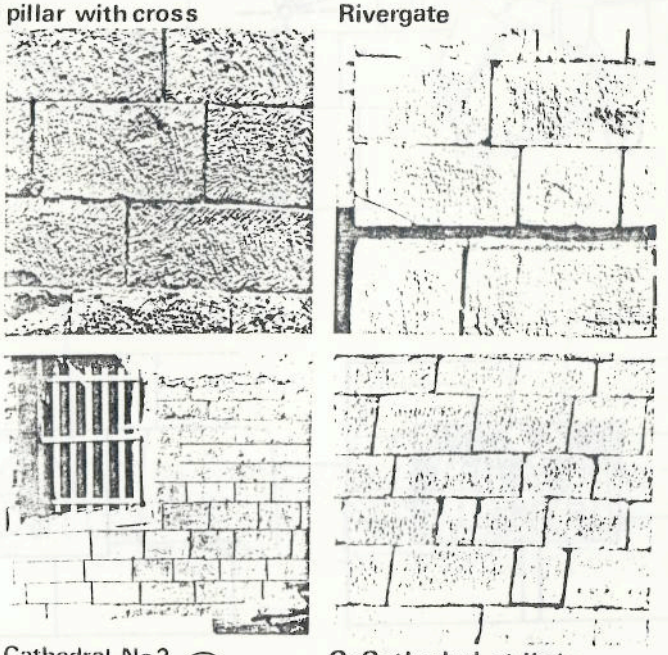


7

a - Tribune added later
b - hypothetical division of the naos:
- granite columns
6 - number of Greek feet
- Old foundations partly reused



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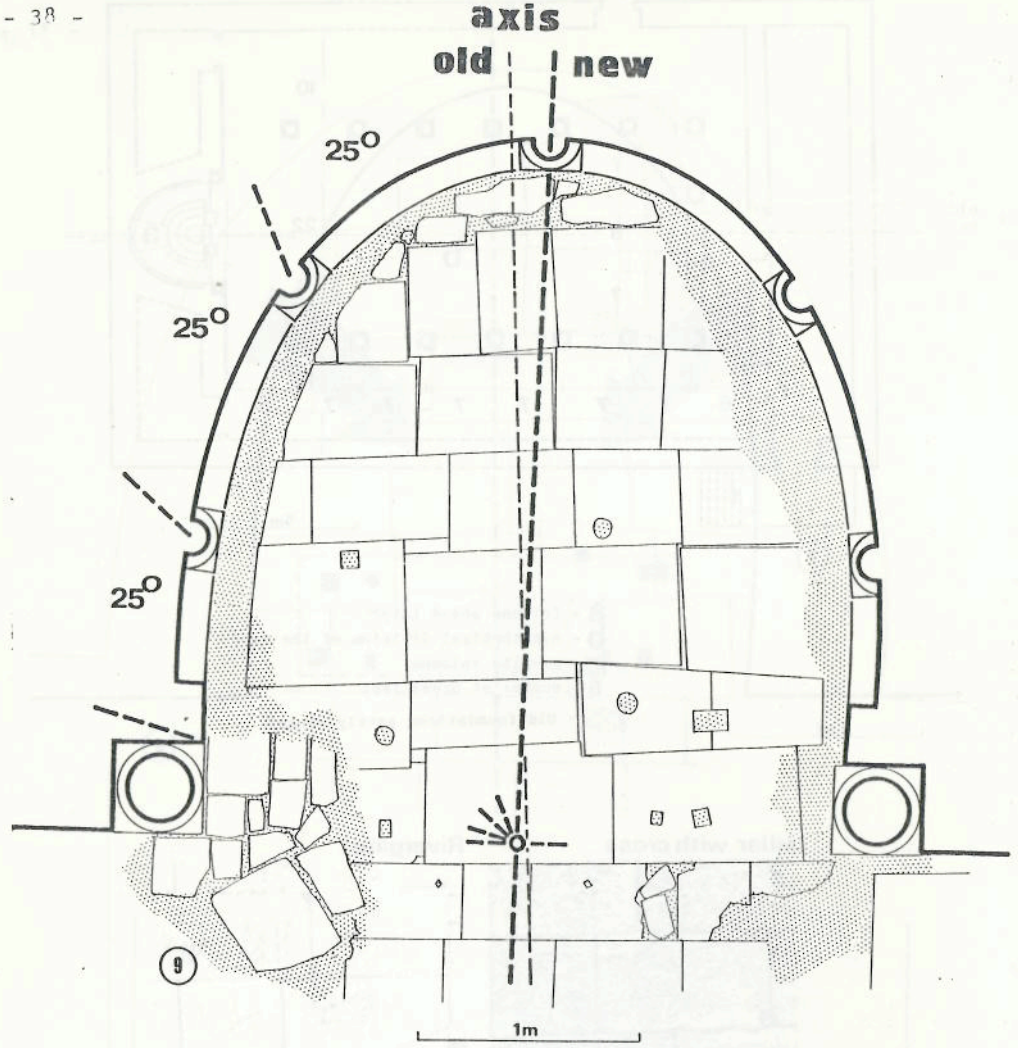

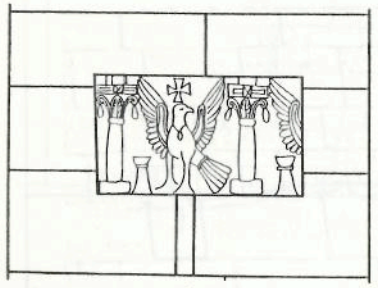

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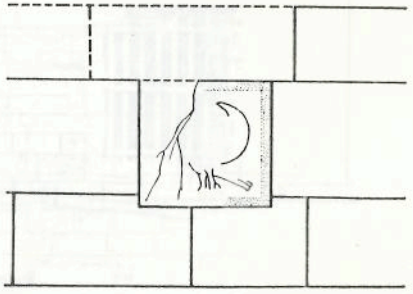

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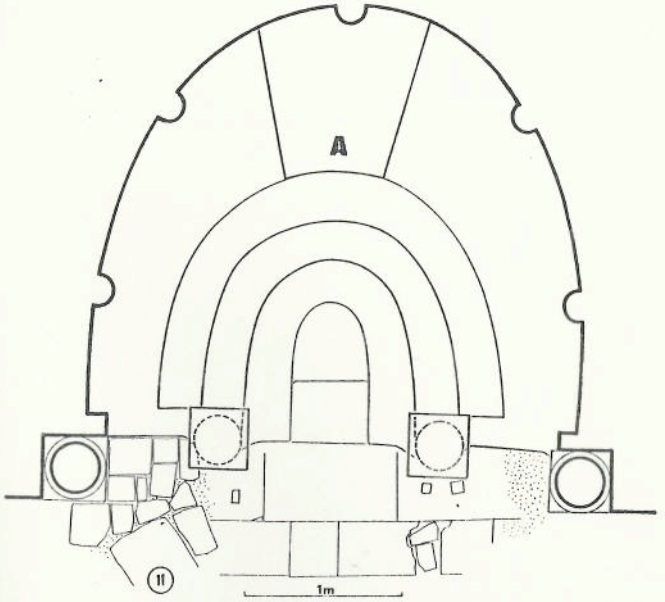

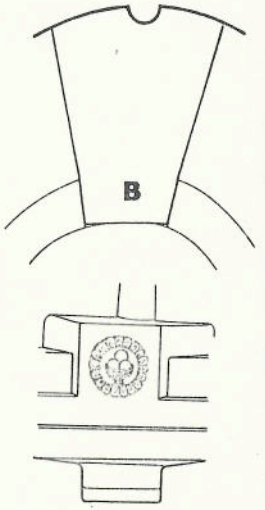

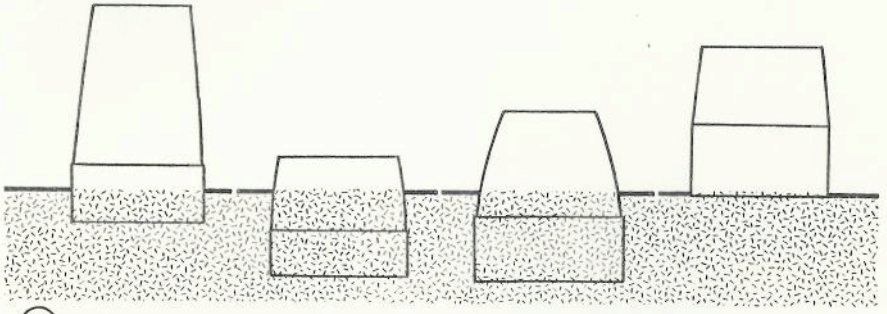

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axis
old
new
25°
25°
Paras
Torin