

TH.

*Nubian Letters*®

-21-



Smidswater 8, 2514 BW The Hague  
The Netherlands



NUBIAN LETTERS<sup>®</sup> is an independent bulletin for Nubian history and archaeology, published under the auspices of the International Society for Nubian Studies and the Department of Early Christian Art at the University of Leiden, the Netherlands.

Editors: Elisabeth de Ranitz, Karel Innemée and Paul van Moorsel

Members of the I.S.N.S.: voluntary subscription NLG 60.-- or equivalent in other currency.

Non-members, libraries and institutions: subscription NLG 110.-- for a period of four years (1991-1994) to be paid by international money-order, sent to the editorial address.

All copy should be sent to the editorial address:  
Smidswater 8, 2514 BW the Hague, the Netherlands.

Contributions should be typed on DIN A4 with a margin of 3 cm on both sides and the bottom margin, and a distance of 3.5 cm at the top margin.

CONTENTS Nubian Letters<sup>®</sup> 21 (February 1994)

Jacques Reinold and Patrice Lenoble, Engraved bronze vessels from El Hobagi	1
Karim Sadr, Angelo Castiglioni and Alfredo Castiglioni, CERDO in the Nubian desert: the 1993 season	4
Gerald M. Browne, A survey of Old-Nubian texts from Qasr Ibrim	7
Paul van Moorsel, About some "Non-Phenomena" in the history of Nubian archaeology	11
Protocole de la réunion conjointe du comité de l'ISNS et du comité d'organisation de la VIII <sup>e</sup> conférence	14
Nachschrift zum Protocole	15
The International Society for Nubian Studies: Articles of Association, as revised in September 1990	16
The International Society for Nubian Studies: its Patrons, its Honorary Presidents, its President, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council	19
Books received	20
Publication announcement	24

ENGRAVED BRONZE VESSELS FROM EL HOBAGI

by Jacques Reinold and Patrice Lenoble

Khartoum, Sudan.

The French Archaeological Research Unit could not excavate at el Hobagi in 1991. Consequently, much of its time has been devoted to postexcavation studies and restoration work. The material discovered in the Meroitic royal tumuli (see N.L. n° 16) has been analysed, and began producing a series of papers, to be published in various journals, the aim of which is a general reappraisal of the religious and political significance of liturgies performed at royal funerals. Goblet trays, basins and situlae in the libating gestures; various meanings of dogs sacrifices; the divine milking of deceased kings, and the role of the sacrificed cows and calves; the triumphal horses and camels immolated in the highest ranking graves; the triumphal slaughter of prisoners at imperial graves; retainers sacrificed at royal graves or servants attached to their religious duties, etc. Rite after rite, the royal mortuary liturgy reveals an indisputable continuity between the Late Meroitic and the Postpyramidal "funerary customs", eliminating most of the traditional arguments which wanted to oppose the tumulus to the pyramid. Furthermore, the restoration of 50 bronze and around 120 ceramic vessels, of 20 or so iron spears and 700 arrows, etc, builds a corpus of forms and decorations useful for the typology of ritual artefacts buried by tens of thousands in the hundreds of regional cemeteries of the 3rd-5th centuries between the 6th and 5th Cataracts.

The most gratifying results came from the cleaning of the bronze vessels (basins, goblets and cups) which belong to the liturgical sets used for various libations. Many of them yield, under the superficial oxides and the remains of their coverings (either fabric material or other woven plant fibers), an engraved "decoration". All the motifs and scenes obviously belong to the symbolic repertoire of the Meroitic culture.

For instance, the cup VI/1/16 pictures a frieze of frogs, above a scroll of alternatively upright and hanging lotus flowers. By its



engraving, the object is totally comparable to another cup found in Ethiopia (see fig. below, Leclant 1978 and Anfray 1991). This recipient should be associated with the basin HBG VI/1/19, on the bottom of which a crocodile statuette was soldered, and whose walls are decorated of various motifs including lotus flowers. The symbolic meaning expressed through animals and plants relates the complementary vessels to the Nile water libation.

Another basin, HBG VI/1/21, produces, again under another frieze of lotus flowers, a scene of drumming and dancing. Front-faced, the drummer plays the same *daluka* as found at Qustul (Q3-73), and the dancer moves nearby among divinities and attending priests. At least two marks of the royal Meroitic pattern - an offering table surmounted by an encircled singular motif - indicate the existence of a previously unknown reign. The scene itself is totally comparable to a carving in the N11 pyramid chapel and to a painting upon a goblet stored in the Louvre Museum (Kendall 1989), as well as to a painting found in the Isis temple at Herculaneum. Although not entirely cleaned and still deprived of the representation of amphorae, the scene relates the vessel to the wine libation, an almost common Meroitic practice at graves.

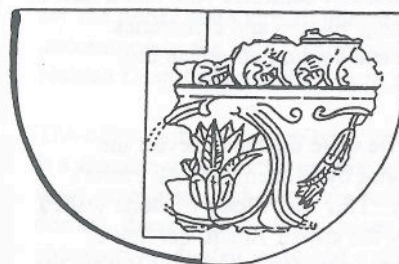
Other discernible scenes upon chemically altered bronzes require specialist restoration and may yield in the near future the proof for the milk libation (Yellin 1978 and 1982). Up to now, 12 cups and goblets have provided various engravings of simpler symbols such as ankh signs, lotus buds and flowers, uraei, etc, which obviously do not belong to another culture than the Meroitic one.

Finally came the reward, with the last cup cleaned. The vessel, moulded, bears a net of schematic symbols, alternating ankh signs and lotus rosettes. Under the lip runs a complete inscription in four words, written in Meroitic hieroglyphs. It shows, after an initial ankh sign, the three letters q o r, followed by a name unknown from the Meroitic royal list, and titles.

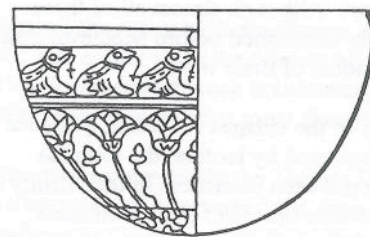
No doubt such a fortuitous find will help to re-shape the sophisticated (if not tortuous) Postmeroitic theory into a simpler Postpyramidal Meroitic one. The Noba (the inscription uses neither

a "n" nor a "b") are surely to be found near the Meroitic territory or inside it (Török 1990). But were they not, simply, Meroitic subjects in the IVth century A.D. (Adams 1977) ? Did they or did they not maintain the Meroitic heritage ? At least, if they really were involved in the increasingly questionable "End of Meroe", they continued to perform a Meroitic liturgy, and no other, at the burial of their kings or kinglets. This will be thoroughly argued in a study to appear soon in a special issue of Meroitic Newsletter.

Khartoum, october 1991



Coupe  
El Hobagi VI/1/16



Coupe  
Addi-Gelemo

D'après ANFRAY 1991  
"Les Anciens Ethiopiens"  
Paris, Colin, p. 63



### CeRDO in the Nubian Desert: the 1993 Season

Karim Sadr, Angelo Castiglioni, Alfredo Castiglioni,

CeRDO, Varese, Italy.

During February 1993, the Centro Ricerche sul Deserto Orientale (CeRDO \*) continued its researches in the Nubian Desert of the Sudan between latitudes 20 and 22 and longitudes 32 and 36. This season's activities included besides survey and reconnaissance, test excavations of a number of tumuli and surface collections at several sites. In total, the work of four seasons has resulted in the discovery of over 180 sites. Among these, there are Mesolithic camps, possibly Neolithic graves, an A-Group or predynastic related burial tradition of the fifth millennium BC, scattered evidence for a fourth millennium BC burial tradition, dynastic hieroglyphic inscriptions, as well as some Ptolemaic and Napatan/Meroitic remains. More recent remains consist of what appears to be a Blemmyean (local Beja) burial tradition of the first few centuries AD, and a host of Medieval Islamic remains, foremost among which are many mining villages and cemeteries. Various rock engravings and some forts and mines from the present century complete the catalogue of finds so far.

Because of the tense situation on the Egypto-Sudanese border, we were unable to revisit the principal site of the Nubian Desert, Deraheib, first reported in print by Mohammed Ali Pasha's prospector during the 19th century (Linant de Bellefonds 1868). This vast village of stone walled apartment style houses, avenues and castles was almost certainly the city of Allaqi, the hub of Medieval Arab occupation in the Nubian Desert (cf. various sources in Vantini 1975). Before the Arabs arrived, Deraheib was probably the seat of the Beja King Ol Bab. A structure resembling a church (Manlio Sozzani, personal communication) suggests a Christian period occupation. Before that, a coin suggests that the site was inhabited during the Ptolemaic period. Archival research by Giancarlo Negro suggests that at that time Deraheib may have been Berenice Panchrisia, the 'all golden' outpost of the Hellenic pharaohs. History at this site may prove to extend even farther back in time. Similarities in the site's layout to that shown on the Turin papyrus suggest that Deraheib may have been the gold mine of Seti I of the New Kingdom period. Planned excavations at this fascinating site, we hope, will in future reveal these layers and much more.

Beyond Deraheib there are hundreds of other mining villages large and small. Several of these were surface collected and photographed using a helium balloon. Although almost all of these villages show evidence of Arab occupation, most were probably established before Medieval times. Future test excavations should reveal even pharaonic layers at some of these mines.

In the test excavation of a tumulus within the cemetery of one of the villages we found evidence pointing to gold mining even in Predynastic times. Partially destroyed by looters, the tumulus covers a pit dug into bedrock which resembles shallow mining pits seen elsewhere in the vicinity of the mines. In addition, in a separate burial pit there was a gold wire bracelet. Fine burnished ceramics and a pendant similar to predynastic wares (Jean Vercoutter, personal communication) support the C14 date of mid-fifth millennium BC obtained from charcoal in the apparent minepit. This pit had been sealed by an offering area marked by small stelae and two animal horn cores (sheep and cattle; Louis Chaix, personal communication). Excavation of the two other known

tumuli of this type in the coming season should provide more information on this exciting new discovery.

Among the other tumuli excavated elsewhere, a late-fourth millennium BC grave also included cattle bones but was otherwise too thoroughly looted to provide information about the burial tradition. This funerary structure consisted of a 25 m diameter stone circle with the looted burial chamber on the eastern rim of the circle. In the centre of the circle a large fireplace was surrounded by scattered bones of sheep and cattle. The radiocarbon date was obtained from this fireplace.

Two other types of tumuli were excavated. One of these types is a simple conical tumulus with a diameter of about 3-5m. Two examples were excavated, one of which contained three beads similar to examples found in a Neolithic context in the Kerma Basin (Charles Bonnet, personal communication). Both these graves showed a burial tradition of secondary inhumations; that is to say the bones were already disarticulated prior to burial. Secondary burials such as these are uncommon in the Nile Valley, and the large numbers of this type of tumulus scattered across the Nubian Desert suggest they were built by an indigenous population.

The other common grave type, and by far the most spectacular of the tumuli in the Nubian Desert, is a circular stone platform, with some examples reaching 15 m in diameter. Five of these tumuli were excavated, and two were radiocarbon dated to the 7th and 8th centuries AD. If the dates are correct, these must be Beja graves of the immediately pre-Islamic period. Two types of burial chambers—a domed vault and a slab covered chamber—are associated with this style of superstructure. In both, the body is laid on the right side in a flexed position. In two of the graves the body had been laid on a leather blanket. Other burial goods include the occasional bead, pendant, or other such decorative items. Ceramic vessels were apparently left as offerings outside the tumuli.

Besides the mines and the graves, surface scatters of artefacts—remains of campsites—have also been found. Among these were a group of sites with Khartoum Horizon style sherds, among which many pieces were identified by Isabella Caneva as Mesolithic pottery. The richest of these sites are found around a vast depression which in the early Holocene may have formed a seasonal lake.

Among the many rock engravings, those showing cattle presumably date to the third millennium BC and earlier since the climate after that would have been too dry for these beasts (Muzzolini 1982). A series of rock art showing crude stick figures in association with camels and horses, often shown in combat most likely date from Roman or Medieval times.

Inscriptions abound in the Nubian Desert as well. Hieroglyphics found at various localities name prospectors who traversed the desert (Damiano-Appia 1992), while later Arabic texts and some writings in Coptic appear to be from military expeditions in recent centuries.

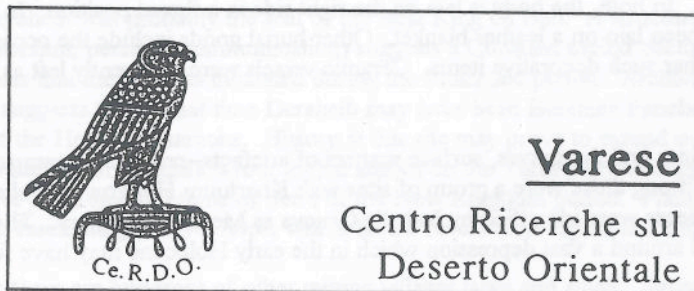
Needless to say, much work remains to be done. CeRDO's four seasons of research have only scratched the surface of a complex historical sequence in a vast area. Even so, what has been unearthed so far has amply repaid the Herculean effort of mounting these difficult expeditions.



The Nubian Desert is no longer the archaeological blank it used to be, and with luck it won't be long before we know enough about the desert's history and prehistory to contribute to a better understanding of the past in Nubia as a whole.

#### References

- Damiano-Appia, M. 1992. Inscriptions along the tracks from Kubban, Buhen, and Kumma to "Berenice Panchrysos" and to the South. Paper presented at the International Meroitic Conference, Berlin.
- Linant de Bellefonds, L. 1868. L'Etbye. Pays habite par les Arabs Bicharieh. Geographie, ethnologie, mines d'or. Paris.
- Muzzolini, A. 1982. Les climats sahariens durant l'Holocene et la fin du Pleistocene. Travaux du Laboratoire d'Anthropologie, de Prehistoire, et d'Ethnologie des pays de la Mediterranee Occidentale 2:1-38.
- Vantini, G. 1975. Oriental sources concerning Nubia. Heidelberg and Warsaw.



\* The 1993 campaign of the Centro Ricerche sul Deserto Orientale was sponsored by Sector Sport Watches, Italiana Petroli (IP), Iveco, Pirelli, and Banca Briantea. The radiocarbon dates were kindly processed by Dr. John Vogel at the CSIR laboratory, Pretoria.

#### A SURVEY OF OLD NUBIAN TEXTS FROM QASR IBRĪM

Gerald M. Browne, University of Illinois (Urbana)

Responding to the kind invitation of Paul van Moorsel, I herewith provide a brief survey of the Old Nubian texts discovered at Qasr Ibrīm by the Egypt Exploration Society.

#### I. Published Texts

The bulk of the material has been assembled in three volumes:

1) J. Martin Plumley and Gerald M. Browne, *Old Nubian Texts from Qasr Ibrīm I* (London 1988), a group of eleven texts found in the course of the 1963-64 season. They are all biblical or literary pieces and have been reprinted, with corrections, in my *Literary Texts in Old Nubian*, *Beiträge zur Sudanforschung Beiheft 5* (Vienna 1989) 44-62 (editions and translations) and 89-91 (commentaries). The pieces are:

1. Ps 31:1-4, 7-11
2. Ps 61:10-13; 83:2-12
3. Ps 95:6-13
4. Jn 11:20-41
5. Jn 20:1-9; 13:13-17; Phil 4:4-9
6. Jn 20:9-15
7. 1 Cor 14:35-40; Heb 6:7-8; 2 Cor 1:2-7; 1 Cor 2:6-11
8. Rev 7:15-8:8
9. Rev 14:6-15
10. Ps.-Chrysostom, In Raphaellem Archangelum
11. Liber Institutionis Michaelis Archangeli

2) Gerald M. Browne, *Old Nubian Texts from Qasr Ibrīm II* (London 1989), from excavations conducted in 1978, 1980, 1982 and 1984. The first half of the volume (Nos. 12-20) comprises biblical, literary or subliterary material, which has been republished, with corrections, in my *Literary Texts in Old Nubian* 62-73 and 91-92. The second half is documentary in nature and consists of a legal text (No. 21) and private letters (Nos. 22-29). Specifically:

12. Ps 26:8-14; 90:1-5
13. Ps 83:13; 86:1-7; 46:2-6
14. Mk 11:1-10
15. Jd 9-16
16. Cyril of Jerusalem, In quattuor animalia
17. Encomium



18. Florilegium
  19. Liturgical Text on Michael
  20. Horoscope
  21. Deposition
  22. Letter from Mena to Petros
  23. Letter from Gabrielkouda to Tapara
  24. Letter from Masi to Elonña(1)
  25. Letter from Iesou to Israel
  26. Letter from Basileios to Israel
  27. Letter from Mariomē( ) to ---
  28. Letter to the Daughter of Eiteine
  29. Letter
- 3) Gerald M. Browne, *Old Nubian Texts from Qasr Ibrīm III* (London 1991), a group of 33 documentary texts discovered in the 1974 excavation and constituting a small archive. The contents are:
30. Royal Proclamation
  31. Release from Purchase
  32. Sale of a Plot of Land
  33. Release of a Slave
  34. Sale of Land; Cession of Land
  35. Release of a Servant
  36. Sale of Land
  37. Sale of Land
  38. Sale of Church Land
  39. Sale of Land
  40. Sale of Land for Church
  41. Sale
  42. Cession of Land
  43. Donation
  44. Sale of Land
  45. Sale of Land
  46. Order from the Eparch Tamsi
  47. Order for Payment
  48. Request from the Eparch(?) Nad( )
  49. Letter from the Eparch Adam to the Vice-Eparch Soueti
  50. Letter from the Vice-Eparch Soueti to Ajjaji
  51. Letter from the Eparch Adam to the Architrclinus Douddi(1)
  52. Letter from Ammetti to Mashshouda, Choiak-eikshil
  53. Letter from Mashshouda, Elder(?) of the Domesticus, to Marigaji

54. Letter from Pesa, with Acknowledgment
55. Letter from Iesou, the Priest, to Eioñoka
56. Letter from Tapara, the Great Priest, to Eioñoka
57. Letter from Bishop Arōn to Bishop Isou
58. Letter to Iesusinkouda, Archdeacon, from Mineria(?)
59. Letter from Alpha, the Priest, to Mashshouda
60. List of Church Holdings
61. Itemized List
62. Itemized List

In addition, note the following:

4) Gerald M. Browne, "Old Nubian Studies: Past, Present and Future," in: W. V. Davies (ed.), *Egypt and Africa: Nubia from Prehistory to Islam* (London 1992) 289-291, an edition of a fragmentary literary text from the 1963-64 season.

5) Gerald M. Browne, "Notes on Old Nubian Texts (X)," *Beiträge zur Sudanforschung* 5 (1992) 35-37 (Appendix), an edition of a fragment of a translation of Jn 20:12-13 and 16-17, included in a group of E.E.S. Qasr Ibrīm photographs kindly supplied to me by Dr. Gawdat Gabra (Coptic Museum, Old Cairo) and presumably from the same provenance.

I should also mention that I have made corrections in the reading of some of the aforementioned texts in the following articles:

"Notes on Old Nubian Texts (X)," *Beiträge zur Sudanforschung* 5 (1992) 32-33

"Notes on Old Nubian Texts (XI-XIV)," *BzS* 6 (1993; in press)

"Ad Ps.-Chrysostomi In Raphaelem Archangelum sermonem," *Orientalia* 59 (1990) 521-523

"Ad Ps.-Chrysostomi In Raphaelem Archangelum sermonem II," *Orientalia* (forthcoming)

## II. Unpublished Texts

I am currently working on a fairly large group (ca. 100 pieces) of Old Nubian texts discovered in the excavations of 1978, 1980, 1982 and 1984, as well as several from earlier seasons. The bulk of this material is documentary, and only a few pieces are of biblical or literary content. Unfortunately, most of the unpublished texts are exiguous fragments, and many of the somewhat larger pieces are in terribly bad condition. I hope in due course to publish editions of at least the more coherent texts either individually in the *Journal of Egyptian Archaeology* or as a collection in a fourth E.E.S. volume. In the meantime, I content myself here with offering a preliminary edition of one of the literary fragments



from amongst those still unedited: it comes from the 1982 excavations and, despite its fragmentary condition, is clearly from a text dealing with the Four Living Creatures of Revelation: for comparable material, see No. 16 cited above from Vol. II and also my edition of a similar text from Serra East: "An Old Nubian Version of Ps.-Chrysostom, In quatuor animalia," *Altorientalische Forschungen* 15 (1988) 215-219.

IN 82.2.8/65 (paper)

i .....π[ ]  
 ..,ΓΟΥΛΛ[ ]  
 ΝΑ ΔΟΚΤ[ ]  
 ΟΥ ΣΠΟΣΤΟΛΟ[σΓΟΥ- cΘΗ]  
 5 ΤΙΛΟ ΔΟΚ..[ ]  
 ΔΪΟΡΤΙ ΚΟΚ[ ]  
 ΘΝ ΤΑΔΔ[ ]  
 ..[.....]..[ ]

ii [ ]Δ[ ]  
 [ ]cιpε τ̄λ̄..  
 [ ]χλω' cχλε  
 [ (?)τ̄χ̄]λ̄η̄ Σλεω  
 5 [ ]κο ΔΟΚΚΟΦ̄  
 [λφβα κ̄εμcονΓΟΥΝΑ cΘΗ]ΤΙΛΩΘΔΑΛΩ ΜΑ  
 [ ]\_Σ η̄χ̄λ̄ιγ̄εν̄Σ  
 [ -ΓΟΥ]ΝΑ cεντι/[λοcωλλω

Translation: (i) ... glory of ... we apostles ... through the request ... glory ... merciful ... this upon him(?) ... (ii) ... upon ... I speak(?) ... in the truth of God(?) ... through the request of the four glorious animals ... to illuminate(?) ... through the request of the ...

Commentary:

ii 3 cχλε: "I speak" (?); cf. IN I 5 ii 8.

6 For the restoration cf. SE B i 4-6, 9-10, ii 5-7.

7 η̄χ̄λ̄ιγ̄εν̄Σ: the supraliteral stroke suggests that this is an error for η̄χ̄λ̄ιγ̄εν̄<ι>Σ "to illuminate."

ABOUT SOME "NON-PHENOMENA" IN THE HISTORY  
 OF NUBIAN ARCHAEOLOGY

Paul van Moorsel, Alphen aan den Rijn, the Netherlands.

Recently Louis-A. Christophe passed away. All of us feel indebted to him, e.g. for his most invaluable Campagne Internationale de l'Unesco pour la sauvegarde des sites et monuments de Nubie, BIBLIOGRAPHIE, Paris, 1977. After then, unfortunately, no updated Bibliography of Reports of the archaeological work, undertaken during the Nubian Campaign of the Sixties, has been published. Even a List of the Final Publications, that have appeared after 1977, is lacking. This means, that nowadays (January 1994) there is no clear evidence whether all Expeditions have fulfilled their tasks, i.e. whether they have published their Final Reports.

Consequently there is a need to fill the gap. So, I tried to discover which archaeological sites between Debod/Dabud in the North and Kulb in the South are still waiting for their Final Reports.

In autumn 1993, I have sent a first draft of a List of such "Non-Phenomena" to some Colleagues. Prof. T. Säve-Söderbergh and Madame G. Clerc kindly corrected my first draft in such a way, that I like to publish a second (still very preliminary) version here in Nubian Letters, inviting all esteemed Colleagues involved in the Nubian Campaign, to send their corrections and comments to: Paul van Moorsel, Groenoord 136, 2401 AH ALPHEN AAN DEN RIJN, Netherlands. If possible, before March 15th 1994.....

I am pretty sure, that this List of "Non-Phenomena" must contain many errors. But we need to start somewhere, if we like to make a kind of Evaluation of the UNESCO-Campaign.

With your help, I will try to compose in March 1994 a third, an improved version, which could provide all of us with the basic information we'll need during the forthcoming Conference on Nubian Studies during September 1994 in Lille and in Paris.

In advance, I express my appreciation for your understanding and your help!

A PRELIMINARY LIST OF SITES THAT PROBABLY STILL ARE LACKING  
 THEIR FINAL EXCAVATION REPORTS:

1. Tafa and Qertassi: Christophe 301 (p.83) announces Strouhal, E. and Korecky, Miroslav, Tafa and Quertassi, Prague, but I do not know whether it has been published and when.
2. Quban and Ikhmind: Christophe 343 ff. (p.86) gives some preliminary publications on Quban and Ikhmind, but I do not know whether, where and when Final Reports have been published.



hed.  
3. Scheima and Wadi es Sebua: Adams, Corridor, No.A-10 (p.83) mentions activities of the IFAO and of the Swiss Institute in Scheima and Wadi es Sebua (C-group village, Pharaonic remains and Churches). Apart from Br. Gratien, Le village fortifié du Groupe C à Ouadi es-Seboua Est, CRIPEL 7 (1985) pp. 39-70, I do not know whether, where and when Final Reports have been published.

4. Amada : Christophe 424 (p.93) announces a publication on the German activities here, which so far hasn't been printed. According to my information, the French Mission to Amada should have discovered a Coptic Monastery. It isn't known, whether this has been published.

5. Derr : Christophe 425 (p.93), notes, that the archaeological description of the Temple of Derr hasn't yet been published. Has there been made progress since 1977?

6. Tomas : ? (for Preliminary Publications, see Christophe 426, 427 (p.93) and 428 (p.94) ).

7. Afya : ? (for a Preliminary Publication, see Christophe 404 (p.92)).

8. Aniba : ?<sup>1</sup>

9. Ibrim : Here important publications have appeared,<sup>2</sup> but other important information in print is still lacking, e.g., concerning a huge part of the many Texts discovered in Ibrim.<sup>3</sup>

10. Es Shokan (Abu Simbel North) : ?<sup>4</sup>

11. Gebel Adda : ?

<sup>1</sup>Cf. B. Bothmer in Ch. Bonnet (Ed.), Études Nubiennes I, Genève, 1992, p. 221.

<sup>2</sup> I have two titles published after 1977 on the archaeology and epigraphy of the site in my files : A.J. Mills, The Cemeteries of Qasr Ibrim / A Report of the Excavations conducted by W.B. Emery in 1961, London, 1982 and S. Curto, V. Maragiolio and C.Rinaldi, Korosko-Kasr Ibrim, Incisioni rupestri nubiane, Turin, 1987.

<sup>3</sup> Cf. G.M. Browne, A Survey of Old Nubian Texts from Qasr Ibrim in this edition of Nubian Letters. Apart from J.M. Plumley, The scrolls of Bishop Timotheos, London, 1975, and the Editions given by Browne, o.c., I mention here : M. Hinds and Hamdi Sakhout, Arabic Documents from the Ottoman Period from Qasr Ibrim, London, 1986 and : M. Hinds and V. Ménage, Qasr Ibrim in the Ottoman Period : Turkish and further Arabic Monuments, London, 1992.

<sup>4</sup> Christophe 398 (p.91) mentions, be it on the wrong place, an important preliminary study by J. Jacquet on Meroitic Architecture of the Site. Cf. the Preliminary Remarks in H.D. Schneider, Taffeh. Rond de Wederopbouw van een Nubische Tempel, Leiden, 1979, pp.46-52. See also Deichmann in F.W. Deichmann and P. Grossmann, Nubische Forschungen, Berlin, 1988, p.6.

12. Abu Hoda (Christian Remains) : ?

13. Faras, Polish Concession : An enormous amount of work has been done during and after the campaign. But nonetheless still important information is not yet available in print, as only 2 Excavation Reports (Christophe 593 and 594 (p.106))<sup>5</sup> and even not all the murals of the Cathedral have been published.<sup>6</sup>

14. Serra East ( Pharaonic Fortress) : ?

15. Dabarosa West : ?

16. Meinarti : ?

17. Dorginarti : ?

18. Dabenarti : ?

19. Survey Gamai-Dal : ?<sup>7</sup>

20. Survey Gamai-Murshid : ?<sup>8</sup>

21. Askut : ?<sup>9</sup>

22. Semna South : ?

23. Kulubnarti : ?<sup>10</sup>

#### DESIDERATA ADDENDA :

- 1/.....
- 2/.....
- 3/.....
- 4/.....
- 5/.....

<sup>5</sup> After 1977 different Monographies on Faras appeared, like : J. Karkowski, Faras V, The Pharaonic Inscriptions from Faras, Warsaw, 1981, M. Martens-Czarnecka, Faras VII, Les éléments décoratifs sur les peintures de la cathédrale de Faras, Warsaw, 1982 and T. Dzierzykray-Rogalski, Faras VIII, The Bishops of Faras. An Anthropological-Medical Study, Warsaw, 1985.

<sup>6</sup> Although K. Michalowski, Faras, Die Kathedrale aus dem Wüstensand, (Einsiedeln etc., 1967) gives useful overall information, just the paintings that are in the National Museum of Warsaw, but not those in the National Museum of Khartoum, neither those that unfortunately couldn't be taken off from the walls of the Cathedral received their Final Publication. Which is more than 50% of the decoration of the Church.

<sup>7</sup> Cf A. Mills in Ch. Bonnet(Ed.), o.c., pp.29-31.

<sup>8</sup> G. Donner announced to report on this Survey on the forthcoming Conference in Lille-Paris.

<sup>9</sup> According to Prof. T. Säve-Söderbergh (letter from 11.11.1993) S. Tyson Smith, Los Angeles, prepares the Final Report.

<sup>10</sup> W.Y. Adams announced in Ch. Bonnet, o.c., p.323, n.44 a first volume on this Site.



## SOCIÉTÉ DES ÉTUDES NUBIENNES

Paris, 15-16 juillet 1993

La réunion conjointe du Comité de la Société Internationale des Études Nubiennes et du Comité d'organisation de la VIII<sup>e</sup> Conférence s'est tenue à l'Institut de France, les 15 et 16 juillet, sous la présidence du Prof. Jean Leclant.

Étaient présents : Prof. Aly el Hakim, Mmes et MM. C. Berger, Ch. Bonnet, J. Desanges, F. Geus, W. Godlewski, B. Gratién, K. Innemée, T. Kendall, J. Leclant, C. Lepage, F. Le Saout, J. Reinold, L. Török, D. Valbelle, P. Van Moorsel et D. Welsby.

Étaient excusés : MM. Abdelgadir M. Abdallah, M. Dewachter, Gawdat Gabra, R. Kuper, A. Laronde, J. Montluçon, J. Vercoutter.

Au programme de la réunion : l'organisation scientifique et matérielle de la prochaine conférence qui doit se tenir à Lille et Paris, du 11 au 17 septembre 1994, sur "La Nubie, trente ans après", ainsi qu'une information sur l'exposition qui aura lieu parallèlement sur le thème : "Les cultures antiques du Soudan".

L'accueil et l'enregistrement sont fixés au dimanche 11 septembre à Lille. Le congrès se déroulera dans le centre-ville, du 12 au 16 septembre. Le samedi 17, au matin, les participants sont invités à Paris, à l'Institut de France, pour la séance de clôture.

Les sessions du matin seront réservées aux *Main Papers*. Francis Geus est responsable de la centralisation et de la distribution des textes, qui ne devront pas excéder chacun 20 pages. Les responsables de chaque thème sont :

Francis Geus - Préhistoire  
Charles Bonnet - Kerma, Nouvel Empire  
László Török - Napata-Méroé  
Włodzimierz Godlewski et Aly M. el Hakim - Époques chrétienne et islamique  
Paul Van Moorsel et Jean Leclant - Historiographie et futur des études nubiennes.

Les *Main Papers* seront envoyés, en deux exemplaires, par les auteurs à chaque responsable de thème qui se chargera de transmettre l'ensemble à Francis Geus avant mars 1994.

Les communications concernant les travaux archéologiques récents directement en rapport avec les thèmes des *Main Papers* seront présentées de préférence à la suite de ces derniers.

La présentation des *Main Papers* sera impérativement limitée à un bref résumé du texte distribué.

112 communications sont déjà annoncées et 60 titres précisés. En raison de cette abondance, il sera nécessaire de maintenir le principe de sessions parallèles l'après-midi et de limiter le temps de parole à 20 mn. Conséquence de cette affluence : une seule communication pourra être prononcée par un même participant (sauf en cas de présentation de recherches archéologiques récentes). Les conférenciers sont invités à dupliquer par leurs propres moyens les documents ou textes qu'ils souhaiteraient voir distribuer. Le texte définitif proposé pour la publication des Actes de la conférence ne devra pas excéder 10 pages.

La troisième circulaire sera envoyée en mars 1994; elle demandera à chaque participant toute précision sur sa communication et les réservations choisies pour son hébergement.

A Paris, le 16 juillet 1993

*Paul van Moorsel*



Le Comité International de la Société des Études Nubiennes et le Comité d'organisation.

### Nachschrift :

Die Veröffentlichung des obigen Protokolls der Sitzung vom 15. und vom 16. Juli 1993 zu Paris bietet mir die Möglichkeit zu einem amende honorable : versehentlich waren, wie ich am Anfang der Sitzung feststellen musste, die Kollegen Kuper und Hinkel nicht eingeladen worden. Zwar hatte Herr Kuper tags zuvor noch mit Herrn Geus Kontakt aufnehmen können und dabei von den Daten des 15. und 16. Juli erfahren, war dann natürlich aber nicht mehr in der Lage gewesen die Reise anzutreten. Ich habe dann von Paris aus Herrn Hinkel schriftlich benachrichtigen müssen. Die Anwesenden haben den Vorfall als äusserst peinlich betrachtet und das Versehen sehr bedauert.

Alphen aan den Rijn, Februar 1994,

Paul van Moorsel.



THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR NUBIAN STUDIES.

Articles of Association, as revised in September 1990.

- Name 1. The Society, which was founded in Warsaw on the 22nd of June 1972 by those scholars who had participated in the UNESCO-Campaign to save the Nubian Monuments and/or had attended the Symposia in Essen 1969 and Warsaw 1972, shall be known as The International Society for Nubian Studies.
- Aims 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, linguistic 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.
- Member- 3. New members shall be elected at the general Meeting  
ship held at each Symposium on the proposal of two members of the Society. Membership may be terminated by a member who shall declare in writing his intention to resign from the Society.

- Presi- 4. The General Meeting of the Society shall elect  
dent a President to serve until the next Symposium.  
(If the members of the Society thought it desirable, a retiring President could be elected for a further term of office).
- Council 5. The President of the Egyptian Antiquities Organisation and the Director General of the Antiquities and National Museums of the Sudan are ex officio members of the Council. The General Meeting of the Society shall elect eight members among themselves to form a Council, to assist the President, covering as many fields of Research as possible. Members of the Council shall be elected to serve for a term covering the holding of two Symposia. 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 and can charge more than one member with the tasks of the Vice-Presidency. A Vice-President's term of office shall be determined by the General Meeting.  
The General Meeting may choose to elect Honorary Presidents.
- Secre- 6. The Secretariat shall be determined from time to  
tariat time by the Council of the Society.
- Voting 7. All decisions shall be made by a majority of the persons present at the general Meeting.



Changes 8. Any change in, or amendments to, the above Articles in the of Association shall be made by a majority decision Articles of the members at the 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.

#### Schedule

- 2.e Normally Symposia will be held every fourth year.
5. Ex officio members of the Council have the right to appoint another representative if they themselves cannot serve.
- Nominations for election to the Council shall be made in writing not less than 24 hours before a General Meeting. Each nomination paper shall bear the name of the proposer and Seconder and the assent of the person nominated that he is willing to serve. In the event of more persons being nominated than the number of vacancies on the Council, a secret ballot shall be held.
- 

THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIETY FOR NUBIAN STUDIES,  
its Patrons, its Honorary Presidents, its President,  
Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council.

Patrons: Prof. J. Martin Plumley, Sir Laurence Kirwan,  
 Prof. Peter Shinnie.

Honorary Presidents: Prof. Negm ed Din Moh. Sherif,  
 Prof. Gamal Mokhtar, Prof. Jean Vercoutter and  
 Prof. T. Säve-Söderbergh.

President: Prof. Jean Leclant.

Vice-Presidents: Prof. Charles Bonnet and Dr László Török.

Members of the Council:

Dr Nur ed Din (President of the E.A.O.) and  
 Prof. Ahmed M. Ali-Hakem (Director General of the  
 Antiquities and National Museums of the Sudan),  
 both 'ex officio';  
 Prof. Abd el Gadir (till 1998),  
 Prof. R. Kuper (till 1998),  
 Dr T. Kendall (till 1998),  
 Dr D. Welsby (till 1998),  
 Prof W.Y. Adams (till 1994),  
 Prof. Wl. Godlewski (till 1994),  
 Dr Gawdat Gabra (till 1994),  
 and Dr F.W. Hinkel (till 1994).

The undersigned acts as the Secretary-General,  
 Dr Karel Innemée as the Second Secretary of the Society.

Alphen aan den Rijn,  
 August 22nd 1993,

  
 Paul van Moorsel.



## BOOKS RECEIVED

Angelika Jakobi and Tanja Kümmerle, *The Nubian Languages: an annotated bibliography* (African linguistic bibliographies; vol.5) Köln, 1993, ISBN 3 - 927620 - 35 - 1.

From the introduction (by the authors):

"This is not - as the title may suggest - a strictly linguistic bibliography of the Nubian languages. Additional to language studies and documentations we have included anthropological, archaeological, ethnographical, historical and philological works in order to reflect the important role which Nubian languages and Nubian-speaking people have played in culture- and ethno-historical studies of northeastern Africa.

To compile this bibliography we applied three methods: First, wide reading in the field of Nubian studies, second, correspondence with Africanists and Nubiologists whom we asked to send their publication lists, and third, reference to more or less specialized bibliographies. However, we are well aware that we did not succeed in obtaining each title of the widely scattered literature, especially some large sized books and titles published in Africa and the former Soviet Union proved to be hardly available by inter-library book borrowing."

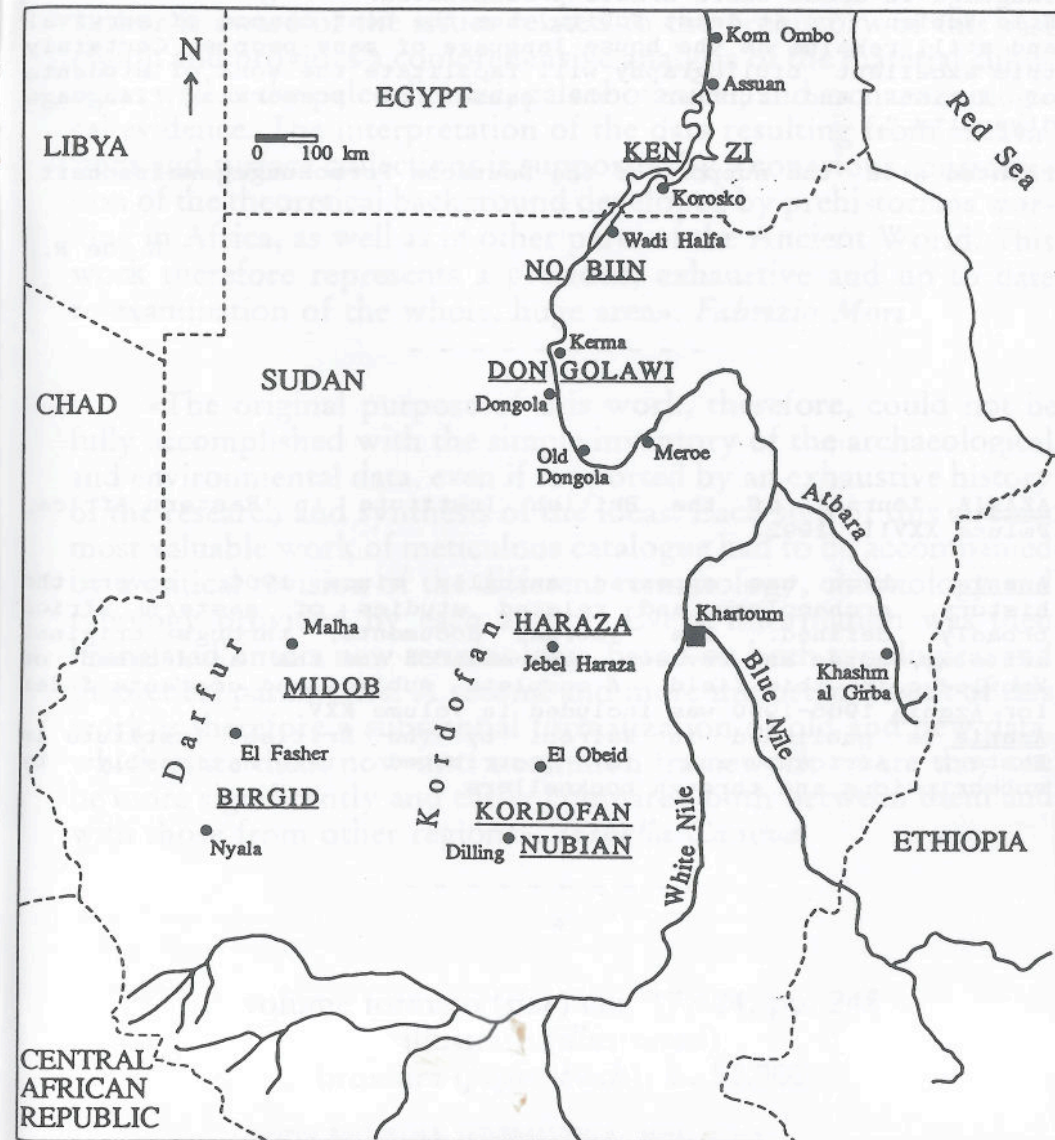
From the foreword (by Peter L. Shinnie):

"The Nubian languages have a rather special place amongst the languages of northeast Africa. One of them, Old Nubian, has the distinction of being one of the few languages of the area which is known in written form.

Old Nubian texts provide important information on the development of Nile Nubian and particularly Nobiin the language (or dialect) to which it is closely related. The continued existence of Nubian languages to the present day has provided vocabulary information which has helped in the translation of Old Nubian texts.

Many problems, linguistic and historical, remain to be solved concerning the movements of Nubian speakers and the extent of the language in past times. Present distribution certainly suggests that the homeland of the language was to the west of the Nile but we have no evidence to tell us when the Nile valley was first occupied by Nubian speakers. The existence of Meroitic is a complicating factor. Meroitic may be related to Nubian, but from what little we know of it, it was close and knowledge of Nubian does not help in the translating of Meroitic. Did two separate groups - Meroitic speakers and Nubian speakers - live side by side for several hundred years?

## Geographical Distribution of the Nubian Languages





The publication of this bibliography is very timely at a moment when the impact of Arabic is being felt more strongly than in the past. The movement of Nubian speaking populations as a result of the formation of Lake Nubia has threatened the survival of the language in areas where Arabic predominates.

Nile Nubian, or at least Nobiin, has the best chance of survival and still remains as the house language of many people. Certainly this excellent bibliography will facilitate the work of students of Nubian and further the cause of preserving language diversity."

Printed with the support of the Deutsche Forschungsgemeinschaft

E. de R.

-----

AZANIA, Journal of the British Institute in Eastern Africa, Volume XXVII, 1992.

Azania, which has appeared annually since 1966, covers the history, archaeology and related studies of eastern Africa broadly defined. The journal documents, through original articles, notes and reviews, new research and the advancement of knowledge in this field. A complete subject and contents index for Azania 1966-1990 was included in Volume XXV.

Azania is published in Nairobi by the British Institute in Eastern Africa, and is distributed internationally by subscriptions and through booksellers.

-----

## CULTURAL DYNAMICS IN THE SAHARO-SUDANESE PREHISTORY

«The present work covers the Nile Valley, the Libyan Sahara, Chad and Niger, and the Algerian, Malian and Atlantic Sahara. The author is aware of the issues related to the prehistory of this vast region and provides a comprehensive analysis of the material culture, as well as the paleoclimatic, paleobotanical, and archaeozoological evidence. The interpretation of the data resulting from excavations and surface collections is supported by a conscious consideration of the theoretical background developed by prehistorians working in Africa, as well as in other parts of the Ancient World. This work therefore represents a precious, exhaustive and up to date re-examination of the whole, huge area». *Fabrizio Mori*

«The original purpose of this work, therefore, could not be fully accomplished with the simple inventory of the archaeological and environmental data, even if supported by an exhaustive history of the research and synthesis of the ideas. Each step of this already most valuable work of meticulous catalogue had to be accompanied by a critical revision of the different terminology, chronology and typology provided by each author. Every information was then 'translated' into a new terminology, based on both typological and theoretical parameters. A second and more important result of this work is therefore a substantial formalization of old and new data, which place them now into a common framework where they can be more significantly and easily compared both between them and with those from other regions». *Isabella Caneva*

\*

volume formato (*size*) cm. 17×24, pp. 248  
illustrato (*illustrated*)  
brossura (*paper-back*): L. 50.000

GRUPPO EDITORIALE INTERNAZIONALE, ROMA, ITALY

ISBN 88-8011-010-1



Publication announcement: Kulubnarti I

The Kentucky Anthropological Research Facility announces the publication of Kulubnarti I: The Architectural Remains, by William Y. Adams. This is the first of three volumes that will report on the excavations carried out by the University of Kentucky on the island of Kulubnarti, about 130 km upstream from Wadi Halfa, in 1969 and 1979. The present volume describes and illustrates the outstandingly well preserved castles, *kourfas*, houses, and churches at the main Kulubnarti village (21-S-2), and 19 other sites on the island. Included are descriptions and illustrations of the murals in the Kulubnarti church, most of which have not previously been reported. Subsequent volumes will deal with artifactual finds and with burials.

Kulubnarti I and the succeeding volumes should be of outstanding interest to all scholars concerned with the late medieval and early modern periods, since the Kulubnarti sites are the only remains in the Sudan that span the late Christian and post-Christian periods, and that have been systematically excavated. Volume I is in 8 1/2 x 11" (22 x 28 cm) format, with durable paper covers. It includes 247 pages of text, with 69 maps and plans. There are also 191 photographic illustrations, including 10 color plates of the church murals.

Kulubnarti I sells for US \$35.00, including shipping and handling. Orders payable in US dollars may be sent directly to the Kentucky Anthropological Research Facility, c/o Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky 40506-0024, USA. Orders payable in other hard currencies should be sent to William Y. Adams, at the same address.

It is requested that you bring this publication also to the notice of your university, museum, or institute librarian, since the Kentucky Anthropological Research Facility has no budget for advertising.

---

---