



ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT

Magazine of the German Archaeological Institute Cairo

Interview:

Peter Grossmann –
Living History be-
tween Rome, Athens
and Cairo

Dahshur
Relief Fragments
from Egypt's Oldest
Decorated Pyramid
Temple

Abydos – From the
Early Dynastic period
to the beginning of
the Common Era

Research:

Gold plates from the
tomb of Tutankh-
amun

Focus topic:

The DAI Cairo's edi-
torial department

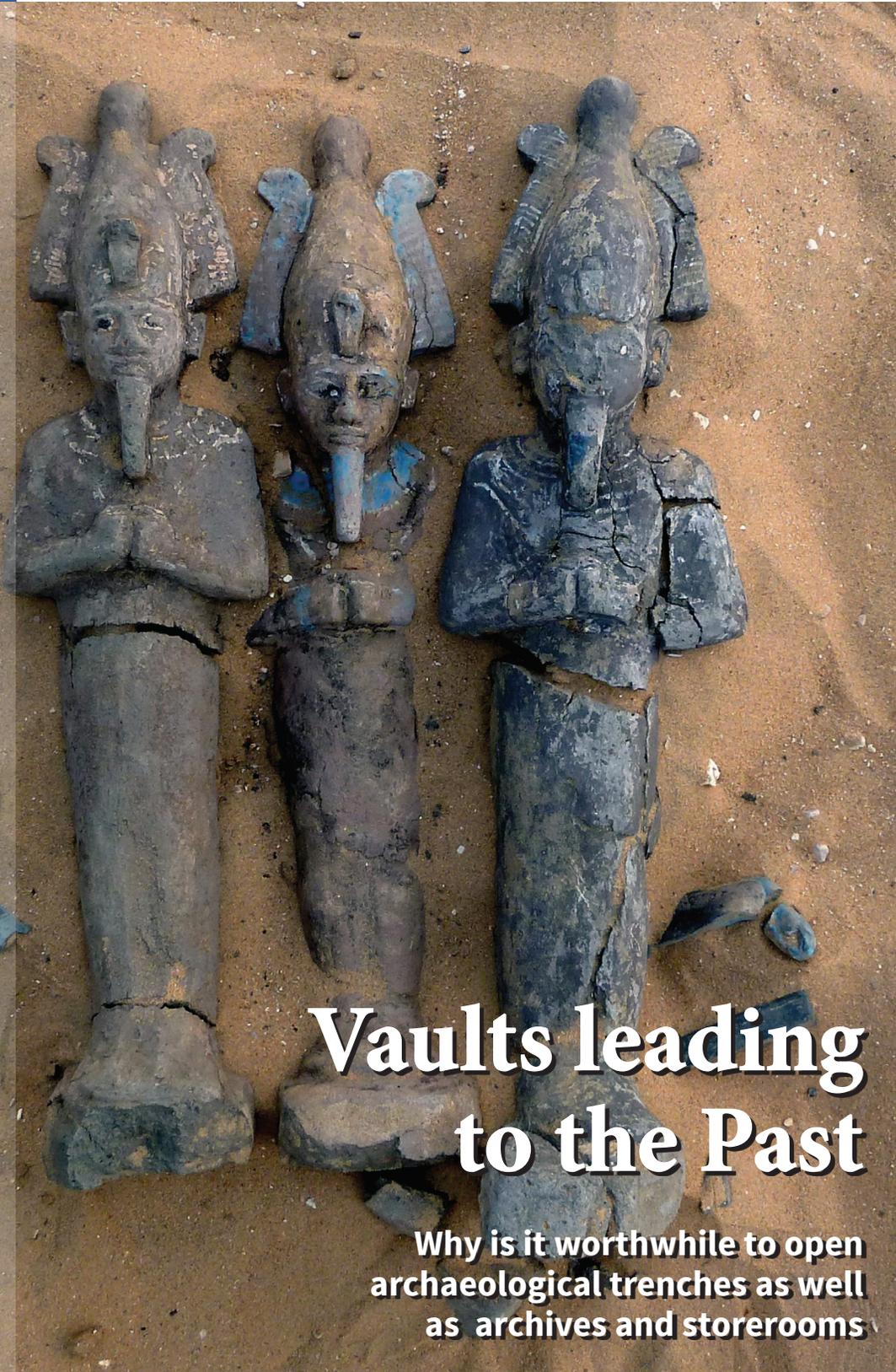
Obituary:

In Memory of
Werner Kaiser

Joint Master Study
Course: Heritage
Conservation and
Site Management and
other Events 2013

Publications 2013

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Vaults leading to the Past

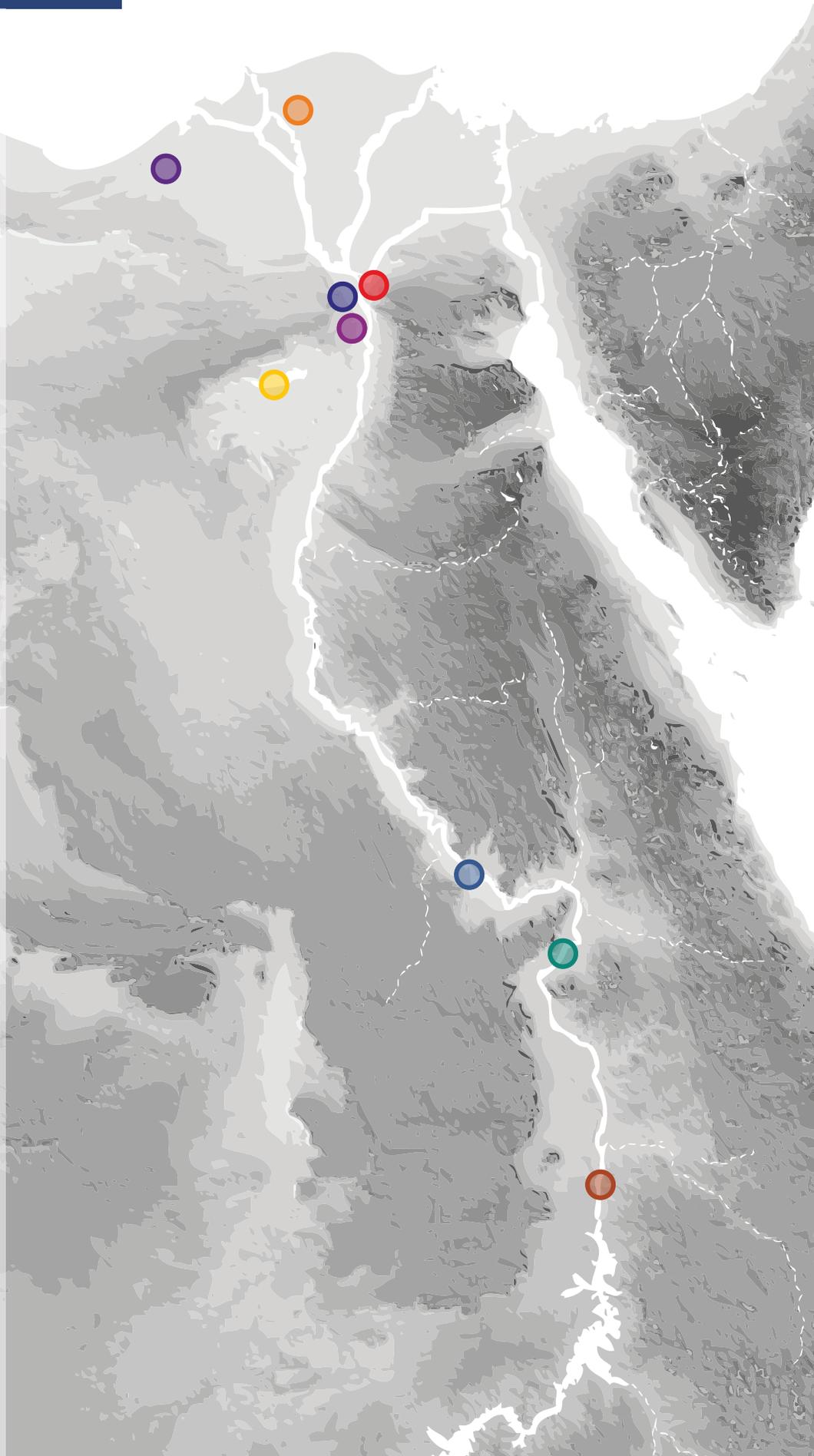
Why is it worthwhile to open
archaeological trenches as well
as archives and storerooms

-  *Buto*
-  *Abu Mena*
-  *Cairo*
-  *Dahshur*
-  *Fayum*
-  *Antinoopolis*
-  *Abydos*

During the last few decades, one of the main focuses of projects undertaken by the DAI Cairo has been the Early Dynastic necropolis in Abydos and the tombs of the first kings of Pharaonic Egypt. Since 2006, this work has been supplemented by extensive investigations of remains from later time periods, at a time when Abydos prospered as a pilgrimage site.

-  *Luxor*
-  *Aswan*

The German Archaeological Institute's field of work ranges from the Mediterranean coast with the Nile Delta in the north to the First Cataract in the south and, in the frame of individual projects, also incorporates peripheral areas in the western desert such as the Siwa Oasis, as well as the Sinai Peninsula in the east. The map shows the sites where the department was active in 2013.



Dear readers,

From time to time it is necessary to cast a glimpse into the past to be able to look ahead.

In the fields of history and cultural studies, this principle is nothing less than paradigmatic. However, alongside the search for archaeological remains and historical primary sources, an additional level of scientific retrospect is becoming increasingly important. Whether it is the case of an older excavation, stored archives or museum storerooms, taking a glimpse into the treasure trove of the past frequently shows the way into the future of scientific research.

In this magazine, the Cairo department of the German Archaeological Institute documents, for the second time, the work carried out during the year. However, this issue does not only focus on the research in the field, which generally could be undertaken without hindrance despite the continuing difficult political situation, as the experience and professionalism of the projects' team members combined with the year-long knowledge of the sites and the unlimited support provided by the Egyptian authorities proved to be a solid foundation even in troubled times. Information on fieldwork and other research projects of the DAI Cairo can be found in the brief reports. Another focus of this issue lies on projects at particularly large and complex sites such as Abydos where the DAI Cairo has been active on a long-term basis and, in the frame of sub-projects dealing with a variety of new research questions, has acquired a level and quality of archaeologi-

cal-historical understanding that would never have been possible with short-term commitment. The large-scale project in the necropolis of Abydos, which after completion of the fieldwork is currently in an advanced phase of preparation for the publication of its results, has also laid the foundations for new questions, to which the institute will dedicate itself in the future.

Another aim of this annual magazine is to draw attention to work areas and tasks of the institute that are in danger of being overlooked or are new to the institute's range of activities. As such, this issue is also devoted to publishing activities, a core and key task of the department. Research findings only obtain their specific value when they are accessible in published form; therefore the editing process and the supervision of the printing process play a central role in the institute's scientific work. The time and effort involved in these processes should not be overlooked.

But research work should not be restricted to the world within the boundaries of science. In a country where approx. 15% of the gross national product and jobs depend on tourism, and whose national identity is inextricably linked with the construction of its history, it is imperative that the social significance of our field is not underestimated. In the frame of two large-scale projects, the DAI Cairo therefore incorporates central restoration and conservation-related tasks in order to make important material complexes accessible to the scientific community such as the decorated gold

plate fragments from the tomb of Tutankhamun and the relief decoration from the temple of the Bent Pyramid, and also to prepare these complexes for museum display. We give our sincere thanks to the institute's cooperation partners, the Roman-Germanic Central Museum in Mainz and the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies at the University of Tübingen, and we are particularly grateful for the financial support received from the Cultural Preservation and Transformation Partnership Programme of the Federal Foreign Office and from the German Research Foundation. A further and particularly promising sphere of activity presented itself during the institute's involvement in the study course »Heritage Conservation and Site Management« at the Helwan and Cottbus universities. This binational programme sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) significantly contributes to the consolidation of a decisive line of qualification. In the frame of this project, the DAI Cairo taught a module in archaeology at the Helwan University and could demonstrate the potential of its projects and the expertise of its staff members – the most gratifying experience in my capacity as a university lecturer.

The work in Egypt, a country that is currently experiencing profound social and political changes, constantly forces us to test the topicality of our activities. The Cairo department meets this challenge with continuity but not routine.



Stephan J. Seidlmayer

Director of the Cairo Department

TOPICS

4 Interview: Peter Grossmann – Living History between Rome, Athens and Cairo

Peter Grossmann has worked in Egypt as an architectural historian and archaeologist of Christian sites for over 50 years. On the occasion of his 80th birthday, we take a glimpse of the past with him.

10 Old Finds Rediscovered. Relief Fragments from Egypt's Oldest Decorated Pyramid Temple



The work of an archaeologist does not always begin in the field and can instead come into being in the depths of a sealed-off storeroom: painstaking work was undertaken in Giza where over 1000 fragments originating from the Valley Temple of the Bent Pyramid in Dahshur were documented and drawn in order to create a new basis for the reconstruction of the oldest pyramid temple in Egypt.

16 Research: Gold Plates from the Tomb of Tutankhamun – Cultural Communication between Egypt and the Near East

A new cooperation project between the DAI Cairo, the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Roman-Germanic Central Museum in Mainz and the Institute for Near Eastern Studies at the University of Tübingen has been initiated with the aim of restoring and studying the gold plate objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun. As a result of this project, a new spectacular group of objects from the tomb's treasure will be displayed for the very first time in the Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo.



22 Abydos – From the Early Dynastic Period to the Beginning of the Common Era

As the resting place of Egypt's earliest pharaohs, this site began its history almost 3000 years ago. The site was also characterized by nationally significant cult centres, which developed there until the

Credits

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beginning of the Common Era. The primary destination for countless pilgrims was the tomb of the Early Dynastic king, Djer, which was considered to be the tomb of Osiris, the god of the dead, from the second millennium onwards. After more than 30 years of excavation work, the DAI project on the early royal tombs will shortly come to a close, and a new project will deal with the cultic significance of this site from the Old Kingdom until the 6th century AD.

38 **Focus topic:** **The DAI Cairo's Editorial Department**

Communicating research results to the public and to the scientific community is an essential part of archaeological work. This report is dedicated to the publishing activities of the DAI Cairo and presents the various series and journals published by the department.

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48 **Obituary: In memory of Werner Kaiser**

Werner Kaiser was an outstanding scholar. His revolutionary work on the chronology of the Naqada culture and on the transition from predynastic Egypt to the early Pharaonic state opened up new perspectives for the study of early Egypt. As the director of the Cairo department of the German Archaeological Institute, Werner Kaiser created a research programme which spanned all periods and aspects of archaeology in Egypt. In addition to scientific research, he also gave high priority to restoration and site-management. The cooperation with and the support of Egyptian scholars and archaeologists always remained a matter close to his heart.

*The double bath in
Abu Mena , at the
beginning of the
excavation in 1963*



Peter Grossmann – Living History between Rome, Athens and Cairo

Peter Grossmann undoubtedly belongs to the coryphées in the field of Late Antique archaeology and architectural history. He has been active in Egypt and the surrounding Mediterranean countries for half a century, and his work has decisively shaped the modern perception of Late Antique Egypt. In 2013, he celebrated his 80th birthday. In honour of this occasion, Linda Borrmann and Isa Böhme interviewed him on half a century of research work in Egypt.

PETER GROSSMANN was born in Potsdam in 1933 and spent his childhood and youth in Hamburg and Hanover. After completing his Abitur, he studied architecture at the Karlsruhe Institute of Technology (1955–1962), and was awarded the title Doctor of Engineering (Dr.-Ing.) eight years later. His path led him from architecture into the wide field of ancient studies where he finally found his way to archaeology and to Egypt. PETER GROSSMANN lives and works in Athens and Cairo.

Mr. GROSSMANN, how did your academic career begin and how did you come to archaeology?

»I became interested in ancient architecture during my school days. As a teenager I visited many Romanesque churches and studied their various building phases. Later I enrolled at university to study architecture, not with the aim of going down in history as the architect of a few blocks of houses but mainly to study ancient buildings – the focus was still on Roman architecture at that time.«

So you didn't want to work as an actual architect but wanted to

dedicate yourself to architectural history?

»Exactly.«

You just mentioned that your original focus was on Roman architecture. How did the focus then change to Egypt?

»That was due to the circumstances at the time [laughs]. After completing my studies, I took up a post at the German Archaeological Institute in Rome as the assistant of Prof. Dr. FRIEDRICH W. DEICHMANN¹, who needed a draughtsman. Together with other members of the institute in Rome, he organized an expedition to Nubia and, seeing as though I worked for DEICHMANN, he naturally took me with him. During the course of this journey, I had the great fortune to see Abu Simbel in its original state.«

What year was that?

»In 1964.«

Most people only know the two temples of Abu Simbel in their present state, after they had been removed before the reservoir dam was built and then reconstructed on higher ground.

»Yes, the original panorama is the greatest difference compared with the site today. At the time, we drove through the Nile Val-

ley, and the plateau of the high-lying desert stretched along both sides so that you could see Abu Simbel 20 km away. With the cliffs on both sides, which served as an optical scale for the distance and the dimensions of the rock-cut temple, the monument gave a completely different impression from the one you get today with the flat desert plain and water on all sides.«

Did you work in the Rome department for a long time after that?

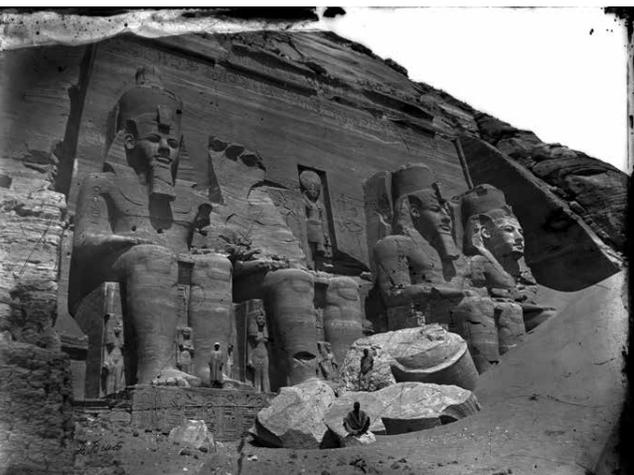
»No, I was sent to work in Abu Mena practically straight away after the journey. I remember that very well: just as I was reviewing the documentation of the Nubian campaign, WOLFGANG MÜLLER-WIENER², the second director of the German Archaeological Institute Cairo and site director at Abu Mena, literally took me immediately off the project and told me that I should go with him to Abu Mena.«

But that's a great compliment [all laugh]. And then you went straight into the field at Abu Mena?

»Yes. And HANNES STOCK³, the first director in Cairo, offered me a position at the institute here straightaway.«

So the move from Rome to Cairo ran smoothly. Besides the work in Abu Mena, have you worked at any other ancient sites?

»Well actually I was a team member of the excavations in the Casa del Fauno in Pompeii for a while. I also worked on the Via Appia, on the Torraccio del Palombero. And between the two projects, while I was already here in Cairo, I was excavating in Asia Minor and Greece. But in Greece, I only worked on Bronze Age remains.«



The large-scale rock-cut temple of Ramses II in Abu Simbel with the four gigantic monumental statues of the pharaoh hewn out of the bedrock

What do you mean by ›only‹?

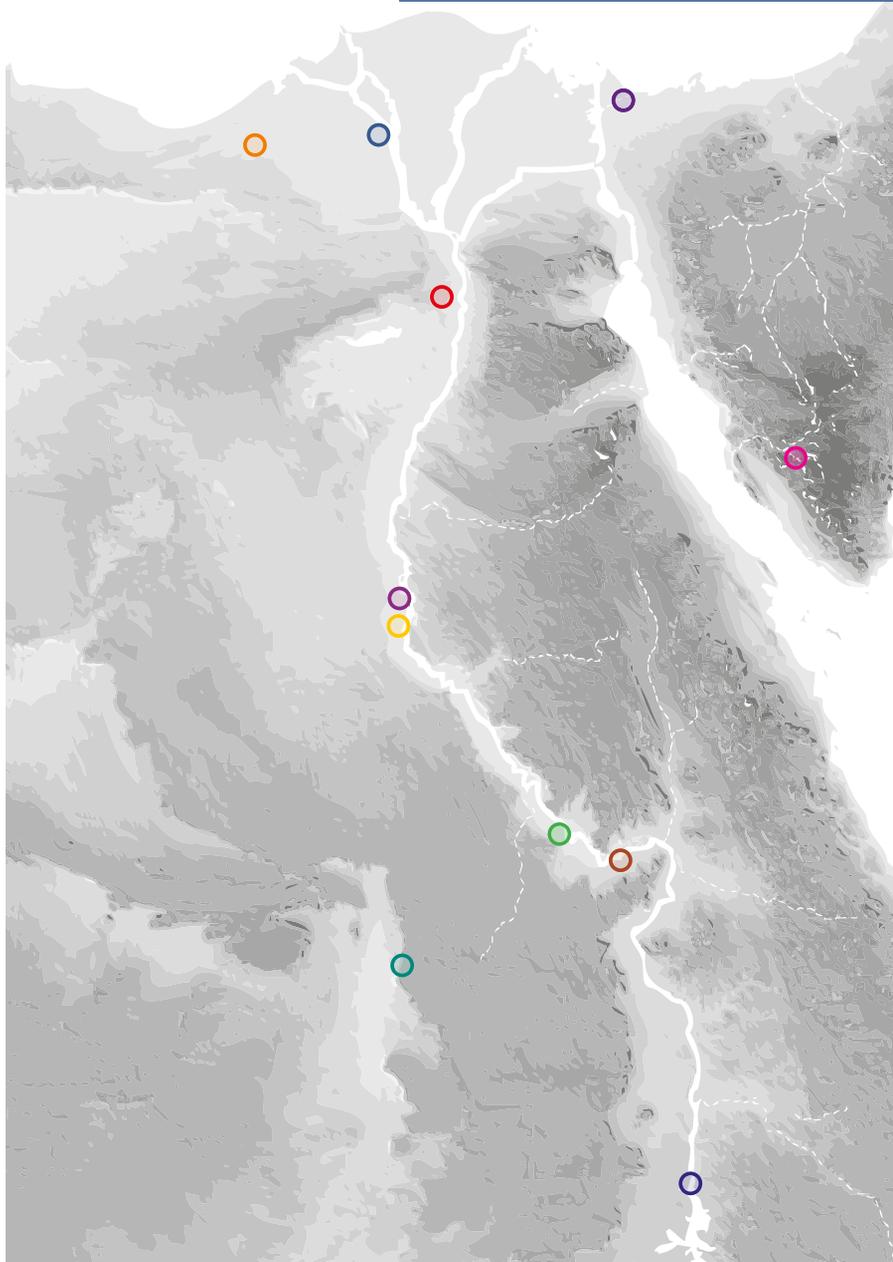
»Well, during the last few decades my work focussed on and is still focussed primarily on remains of Late Antiquity. The Bronze Age period doesn't really fit in with that, but the excavation in Tiryns, where I worked, didn't have anything else to offer. My wife, who is Greek, hoped that I would be able to make a living there, and I wasn't particularly averse to the idea. But after I realized that the director of the Athens department at the time was only pleased to have me working for him because I didn't cost him anything – after all I received my salary from the Cairo institute and spent my holidays in Greece so that he didn't even have to pay for my travel expenses – I immediately stopped my efforts.«

That's understandable. But would you have been generally interested in working in Greece?

»I wouldn't have been averse to the prospect.«

We have just heard how you came to work in Abu Mena. Is there a particular reason, why you decided to stay there?

»At the time I should have actually taken on the position of architectural consultant here in Cairo, which would have meant working mainly on Pharaonic material. And I prepared myself to do just that. Director Stock was planning to excavate in the Delta at Sais, and I was to act as the site architect there. However at the same time, Müller-Wiener was set on the idea that I should continue my work at Abu Mena. Afterwards I realized that there is no use in working on two projects at the same time. But I only cut the cord with Pharaonic material during WERNER KAISER'S⁴ time as director. He was greatly opposed to my wish to stop working in the field of Pharaonic architecture. I replied that if that was the case, then I would only be employed as a menial draughtsman, which was normal at the time in Classical Archaeology, and architects were treated as such. Their only task was to draw ›prettily‹. Personally I didn't like that at all.«



¹ 1909–1993, German representative of Christian archaeology and art historians, long-term staff member of the DAI Rome

² 1923–1991, 1923–1991, German architectural historian; from 1962 to 1967 Second Director of the DAI Cairo, and from 1976, First Director of the DAI Istanbul

³ 1908–1966, German Egyptologist; from 1957 to 1966, First Director of the DAI Cairo

⁴ 1926–2013, German Egyptologist, from 1967 till 1989 first director of the DAI Cairo

The map shows some of the working sites of Peter Grossmann mentioned in the text.

- Abu Mena
- Sais
- Pelusium
- Saqqara
- Pharan
- Antinoopolis
- Hermopolis Magna
- Abydos
- Faw Qibli
- Kharga Oasis – Al-Bagawat
- Elephantine



1 Peter Grossman talking with his foreman Bachit Hussein during excavations in Abu Mena



2 The Northern Bath in Abu Mena

Yes that would not have been particularly satisfying. Archaeologists normally don't want to separate the recording of the material from its evaluation, which would have been the case if you had been limited to working as a site architect.

»Exactly. With architectural documentation you have to know the historical background of the building as well as its surroundings, which should both be documented if you want to get good results.«

So during WERNER KAISER's time as director, you decided to specialize in the Late Antique period concentrating on the site of Abu Mena?

»Yes. However, I hadn't quite fully turned my back on the Pharaonic period. Before KAISER's tenure, I had planned on working on two projects together with DIETER ARNOLD⁵: firstly the Sety Temple in Western Thebes, which was investigated later by RAINER STADELMANN⁶, KAISER's successor, and secondly the ancient reservoir dam located in the vicinity of Helwan. GÜNTHER DREYER⁷, who was STADELMANN's successor and site director in Abydos, excavated there later.

ARNOLD and myself had already started thinking about the planning of both projects, but nothing came of it as MÜLLER-WIENER wanted to keep me in Abu Mena and would not tolerate any other arrangements before the new director, in that case KAISER, had taken up his post. That

was my last attempt to hold on to working in Egyptology, but in the end that also came to nothing.«

Did you ever regret that?

»No, not at all. After a while, I realized that the Late Antique period was an utterly open field where the study of ancient Egypt is concerned. There were discoveries to be made here that had long been exhausted in Greece, Asia Minor and Italy.«

So you found your niche as it were?

»You could say that, yes.«

Have you worked at other places in Egypt besides Abu Mena?

»Yes, all over the country in fact. For example with KAISER on the pre-dynastic tombs in Abydos, on Elephantine, in Saqqara, Pharan in the Sinai, in Pelusium, on the South Church in Hermopolis Magna or with the Italian excavation in Antinopolis, where I am currently carrying out a project on the early Christian churches there.«

Then you have worked on quite a number of different projects of the DAI. But during your career, you also maintained a close working relationship with several foreign missions.

»Yes, that's right. For example in Faw Qibli with the Americans. In Hermopolis Magna, I studied the South Church together with the English ceramics specialist, DON BAILEY, and I also have close contacts with the French. However at the moment

I am mainly working together with the Italians from the University of Florence, who invited me to take part in their excavation in Antinopolis.«

So we could really call you a travelling ambassador of the German Archaeological Institute, Cairo. At the moment, the term »international cooperation« is considered to be particularly important to our discipline, but you have worked together with international scholars on your campaigns already for several decades.

»And rightly so. I have always had good experiences working on an international level.«

Are there differences in the way that German and foreign missions work?

»Well, the people that I work together with are all very different, but work in the field is less so. In most cases, I am the only professional architect and architectural historian working on these excavations. Due to my wealth of experience and the many places that I have visited, it is a very fruitful relationship where both sides profit.

For example, the American team in Faw Qibli⁸ didn't have an architect with them, and the rest of the team mainly comprised of theologians. This cooperation was very constructive, and I was able to provide the team with the necessary archaeological background. By the



way, the German excavation in Abu Mena involved a whole new range of documentation methods. In 1965, detailed, stone-by-stone drawings were introduced to record the architecture. At the time, this was not the general standard practice at all sites. MÜLLER-WIENER had used this method in Milet, and I got to know it in Pompeii. At first we were both surprised that this drawing method was not used in Egypt. There was the saying here that »it's not a question of stone-by-stone accuracy but rather of adequate accuracy.«

A saying that would not have many supporters amongst today's archaeologists.

»Nowadays a small-scale, stone-by-stone drawing is a matter of course, but times were different back then.«

Looking back over 50 years of working and living in Egypt, how has the country changed?

I experienced the Nasser government myself. Back then, it was far more peaceful here. There weren't as many problems with the traffic. You could always find a parking space whenever you drove into the city. You could practically leave the car at the side of the road. Even if you parked a metre away from the pavement, it wasn't a problem. I fear that the city will just explode at some point. When you travel by taxi and the meter just keeps on running even if you're stood still – there

must come a point when the Egyptians have had enough of that.

How long do you normally stay in Egypt during the year as you don't live here all year round anymore?

»That always depends. I come twice a year to do drawing work at the institute and then once during the spring and autumn for the campaigns at Antinoopolis. But that will probably change in the future as restrictions on travelling to Abu Mena have finally been lifted. The project there has not yet been completed and still needs to be supervised. The terrain where the ancient building remains stand has suffered a great deal from the rising water table as the surrounding area has been made fit for intensive agricultural use. The water table originally stood at around 30 m underneath the terrain but it was raised to 1 m. Now the excavation site is extremely at risk.«

How long were you not able to work at Abu Mena?

»Originally there was talk of three years. Those three years turned into six. But we were able to carry out a campaign last year in spring. Even though we did not undertake an actual excavation campaign, just a survey, at least we were allowed to work there again.«

And when do you plan the next campaign?

»If everything goes well, in April. In sha'allah.«

Then we'll keep our fingers crossed. You are still active as a scholar, and are a regular and welcome guest at the DAI Cairo.

»Oh. Thankyou [laughs].«

What are your plans for the future?

»Well, I still have quite a number of commitments. The documentation of the basilica at Abu Mena still needs to be completed and then published.

For the Metropolitan Museum in New York, I was also persuaded to get the plans of Al-Bagawat ready for print. These plans were drawn during the Museum's venture in the Kharga Oasis in the 1930s. Al-Bagawat is one of the oldest Christian cemeteries in Egypt. So I have to

travel there again to check a few things on-site. The architectural documentation is in the style of the time prior to the First World War, so there's lots of work to be done on them.«

The plans in question are not a stone-by-stone documentation?

»No certainly not. During the excavation, only sketches were made, and everything that was not included in the sketches is also missing on the plans. When I began working on these plans I was so enthusiastic about the project. But in the meantime, I have invested so much work on them and their completion will still take quite some time. As I just mentioned, I will have to return to the site to check the plans.

On top of that, other publications need to be prepared. For example, I received material from the Egyptians that come from the late antique palaces in Hilwan, which is now finished. Fortunately I managed to find several colleagues for the project, who will deal with individual object categories. For example, a number of gold coins dating to the early Islamic period were found, which a numismatist will look at.«

To briefly come back to your career in the field of Late Antique Egypt: As already mentioned, you found your scientific home in this field. The discipline has successively gained more attention over the last

⁵ *Born in 1936, German Egyptologist, director of the excavations in Dahshur, Deir el-Bahari, Lisht and Tarif, and curator of the Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York*

⁶ *Born in 1933, German Egyptologist. From 1989 to 1998, First Director of the DAI Cairo*

⁷ *Born in 1943, German Egyptologist. From 1998 to 2008, First Director of the DAI Cairo*

⁸ *The ruins of the so-called Pachomius-Basilica.*

decades, but it still seems as if it is under-represented to some extent.

»No, not really. In the meantime, many scholars work in this area. When I arrived in Cairo, the Late Antique period was hardly represented at all. What Egyptologists excavated back then was more the result of coincidence, as was the case with the finds in Saqqara. An Egyptologist approaches a given site with a specific question and hopes to uncover features that correspond with the time period under investigation, but it doesn't always work out that way. It's always possible that, instead of the sought-after Pharaonic features, late antique layers suddenly turn up.

Another example is Hermopolis Magna. When colleagues from the British Museum were working there,

I visited them quite regularly and used this opportunity to ask them, if I could also record the South Church, which lay practically uncovered and could have been documented without investing major archaeological efforts.

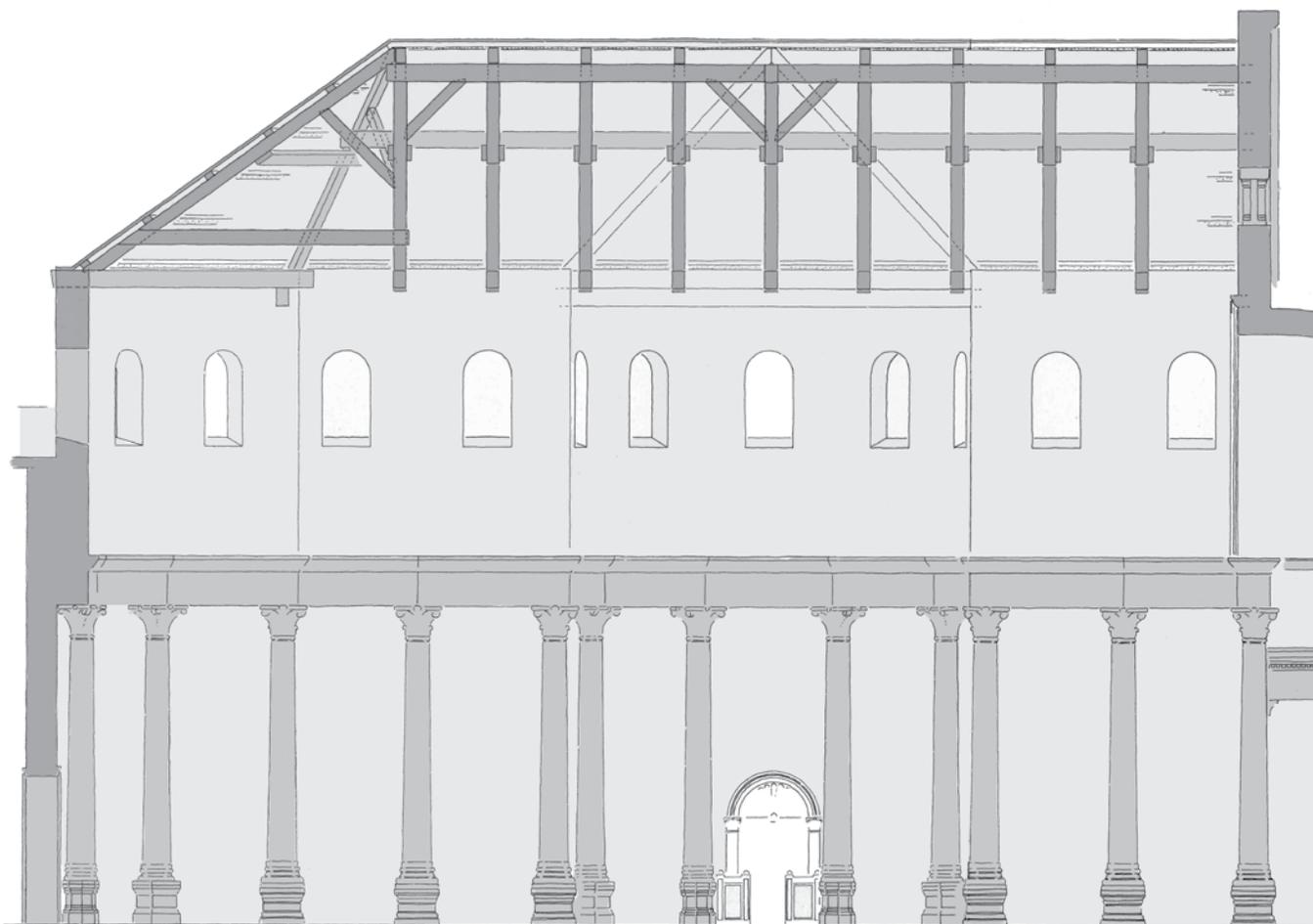
But it was only once their project had finished that they informed me that they hadn't managed to work on the church. So I immediately put in an application for the area and was then granted the concession. One of the British ceramic specialists, who is extremely familiar with late antique ceramics, wrote saying that he would be very interested in working on the project, which is how it turned out in the end.«

So a lot has been done in this field. Let's come now to the last question: You were actively involved

in many field projects throughout Egypt over the last 50 years. What advice would you give to young scholars, who see their future in the archaeological investigation of the country?

»Well, I think the most important thing is to make the effort of upholding a good working relationship with our Egyptian colleagues. Of course not everybody will be willing to do this and the process of making friends sometimes seems difficult, but I have a whole number of Egyptian colleagues, who are always glad and enthusiastic to work together with me.«

Yes we have always had the same experience during campaigns. And a positive and constructive approach naturally contributes to a good working atmosphere.





Old Finds Rediscovered

Relief Fragments from Egypt's Oldest Decorated Pyramid Temple

Packed into boxes over half a century ago and distributed amongst the various storerooms throughout Giza, the reliefs and finds from the Valley Temple of the Bent Pyramid in Dahshur were slowly in danger of being completely forgotten. Thanks to a generous allocation of funds from the Cultural Preservation Programme of the Federal Foreign Office, more than 1000 individual objects were restored and documented in 2013. Restored to new splendour, they now provide fascinating insights into the decoration programme of one of the oldest pyramid temples in Egypt.

Introduction and aims

Originally the objects that are currently kept in the storerooms and mainly consist of relief fragments of the temple decoration from the Valley Temple were discovered during the 1950s by the renowned archaeologist AHMED FAKHRY, who at the time undertook several excavations at the Dahshur pyramids on behalf of the Egyptian Antiquities Services.

The monumental structures built at Dahshur by king Sneferu in ca. 2600 BC not only constitute the immediate forerunners to the Giza pyramids, the Valley Temple of the Bent Pyramid is also the oldest pyramid temple in Egypt with pictorial decoration. In this important building complex, FAKHRY found the remains of the original relief decoration still in its intended position.

However, the majority was lost or had been smashed into fragments. In the temple, FAKHRY also discovered numerous large and small statues, statue fragments, altars and stelae as well as jewellery, seals and ceramic that bear witness to the cult activities, which took place in the temple, and give an indication of its history of occupation. The material is, therefore, of great historical as well as artistic significance. Regrettably, the objects were only published in part after the excavation, and ultimately packed in large wooden boxes without any information of their contents for storage in the

various storerooms belonging to the Egyptian Antiquities

The old, damaged restoration with gypsum is removed by Mahmud Abu Seid, a team member trained by the project's conservator, E. Peintner



Services. They have never been appropriately exhibited in a museum context and were not accessible to scholars. Therefore, the aim of the project is to uncover this treasure trove together with our Egyptian partners, to document the finds according to modern scientific standards and to supervise the restoration and the appropriate storing of the pieces so that their preservation is guaranteed. Due to the fact that the German Archaeological Institute in Cairo has undertaken its own excavations in the pyramid necropolis of Dahshur since the 1970s, Germany and German archaeology has a special connection with this find complex. During the course of our investigations over the last few years, we have succeeded – completely unexpectedly – in finding a considerable number of new fragments of the Valley Temple's relief decoration, which was the catalyst for a new examination of this important building and the stored fragments.

Current work in the Valley Temple has resulted in the special responsibility of turning our attention to the finds from earlier excavations and, during this process, supporting our Egyptian partners with the preservation of this material. The registration, cleaning and appropriate packing of the finds also constitute measures on the basis of which the finds can be displayed for the very first time in the new »Grand Egyptian Museum«, which is currently being developed near the famous pyramids of Giza. This is the way to present them in their entirety to both a wide public as well as to the scientific community, thereby demonstrating one of the greatest achievements of national, Egyptian archaeology. At this point it should be emphasized that half of the team is made up of Egyptian colleagues who receive education and training within the frame of this project. Therefore the project gains a further dimension within the concept of capacity building in Egypt.

The scientific aim of the project is the comprehensive graphic, descriptive and photographic documentation and publication of the finds. The extensive recording and study of all the relief fragments will then constitute the

basis for a new reconstruction of the pictorial decoration of the temple.

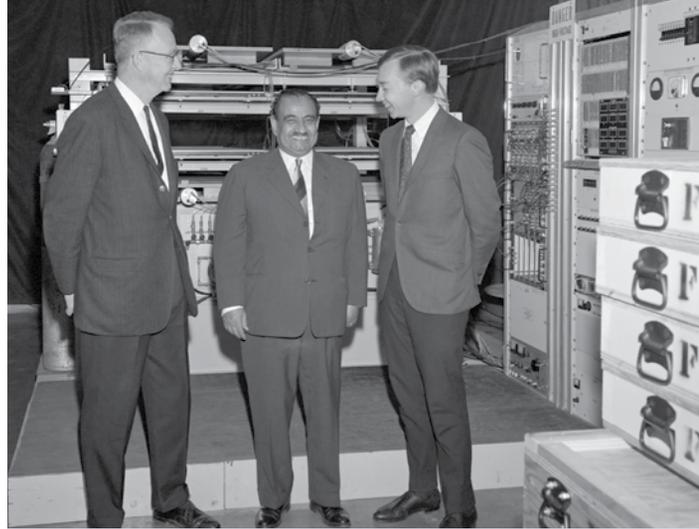
Work undertaken and significance

The extensive work in the Giza storerooms was initiated in the spring of 2013 with the financial support of the Federal Foreign Office (»Cultural Preservation« Programme) and was continued in the autumn of that year. Once the boxes with the material from Dahshur were identified in the Giza storerooms, the storage facilities concerned were firstly cleaned and tidied. All of the relief fragments (1300 pieces in total) were then registered, restored and cleaned where necessary and then drawn, described and photographed. New wooden boxes were also made for the appropriate packing of the finds so that

they can be found in future at any time. In this context, newly-created in-

A relief fragment with particularly well-preserved paintings depicting king Sneferu and the lion-headed goddess, Sekhmet

ventory lists were also added to the boxes and proved to be extremely helpful. In addition, tables were also placed in the boxes with a concordance list of all the numbers that have been allocated so far and with information on the current location of the objects. Once the object registration and re-organisation was completed, copies of the finds lists were then given to the local inspectorate of the Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA). In this way, the local authorities will be able to locate the individual pieces without any problems and can continue further scientific investigations. Furthermore, the photographic documentation of



Ahmed Fakhry (centre) together with the American physicists Luis W. Alvarez (left) and Jerry Anderson (right) in 1965 (© US Department of Energy, PD-USGOV-DOE)

Ahmed Fakhry is one of the most important archaeologists in Egypt and his work decisively shaped the field of Egyptology on both a national and international level. Born on the 21st of May 1905 in the Fayum, Ahmed Fakhry initially began his studies at the University of Cairo, where he completed his degree in 1928. Subsequently he moved to Europe in order to study, teach and research at many different institutes (Berlin, Brussels, Liverpool). After returning to his home country, he immediately took up a position at the Egyptian Antiquities Services where he was able to bring a wide range of experiences and knowledge into numerous projects. Besides working extensively in Dahshur (excavations at the Bent Pyramid from 1950 to 1955) and Saqqara, he also devoted himself to archaeological sites in the oases of the western desert, especially Dakhla. Whilst he was still supervising the excavations in Dahshur, Ahmed Fakhry was appointed professor of ancient Egyptian history at the University of Cairo, his alma mater, for his successful research in the field. Despite this responsibility, he always found the time to teach as a guest professor at several renowned international research institutions, particularly in the USA, and to continue his activities in the archaeological field. Ahmed Fakhry died on the 7th of June 1973 in Paris.

the reliefs enables the responsible representatives of the MSA to get a good overview of the pieces that will be put on display in the Grand Egyptian Museum.

The restoration and the cleaning of the relief fragments stored in the Giza facilities was also completed. Extensive restoration measures were undertaken: In the case of salinated stone, the salt deposits on the surface were manually removed with a scalpel or a hand-held milling machine. The plaster used to repair the fragments in modern times was inadequate and had, in part, already fallen out, therefore it was completely removed. If fragments fitted together, they were glued.

All reliefs were drawn on transparent tracing film in a 1:1 scale. These facsimiles will form the basis for the digital drawings. The facsimiles also contain information on technical details, breaks and colours that were not sufficiently documented in the original publication.

The work therefore constitutes a major extension of the information provided by the drawings published by AHMED FAKHRY. Over 800 fragments were not included in his publication (mainly very small and undecorated fragments), which is why the documentation of all the pieces in the frame of this project is particularly important.

However, due to the fact that not all of the relief fragments were rediscovered in the Giza storerooms, attempts must be made in future to locate the missing pieces in other storage facilities and then to document them accordingly.

The decoration of the Valley Temple

Even though the project is in its early stages, it quickly became clear that the corpus of relief fragments discovered during the DAI's excavations together with the objects excavated by FAKHRY will provide a whole range of new insights for a more accurate, up-to-date reconstruction of the decoration programme in the Valley Temple of the Bent Pyramid at Dahshur. This is of paramount importance as the pictorial decoration of Egypt's oldest pyramid temple can be viewed as a prototype. Many of the representations that become canonical in later times are attested here for the very first time.

The heart of the temple decoration consists of a relief frieze over five metres in length, which shows a procession of personified estates bringing offerings to the king. The domains are geographically ordered: the Upper Egyptian estates were represented from south to north on the western temple walls and the Lower Egyptian domains on the eastern temple walls. The relief frieze allows us to draw important conclusions on Egypt's division into nomes and domains at a time when the geographical structuring of the country



Old Kingdom ivory statuette of a priest in a gesture of adoration. The object was presumably found in its original location at the right-hand entrance wall to a chapel of the Valley Temple together with a small bowl intended for the deposit of offerings

had not yet been finalized. The frieze effectively demonstrates how the revenue of all the country's provinces was absorbed by the residence. It was only through the collection of taxes that a mega-project such as the construction of a pyramid was possible in the first place. The cleaning of the fragments carried out by our team constitutes a prerequisite to display this unique frieze without any further preparatory work. Fortunately it was also possible to fit several smaller fragments kept in another storeroom in Giza into the frieze.

The experiences made during the documentation of the relief fragments stored in Giza also point the way for future goals of the project. As was the case with the temple's decorated fragments that were recorded recently, the other finds from FAKHRY'S excavations still await in-depth examination. The statues, stelae and other finds from the Bent Pyramid's Valley Temple constitute an extremely important material corpus in terms of their architectural and art-historical relevance, and the study and publication of this material is of particular interest. The cult for the provision of the deceased king Sneferu was maintained in the temple throughout the whole of the Old Kingdom (4th–6th Dynasty, ca. 2600–2200 BC). Several statues of family members and priests of the king, seal impressions and particularly

pottery vessels bear witness to the longevity of his cult. During the Middle Kingdom (12th Dynasty, ca. 1980–1800 BC), i.e. more than 600 years after the construction of the pyramid complex, the cult was reinstated in the temple due to ideological reasons. It is interesting to note, that the range of finds from this time period is significantly different. During the Middle Kingdom, pottery offerings were only seldom whereas statues of priests and altars were set up in considerable numbers (a total of over 100 objects) in the temple's open court. A publication is in preparation that will allow the reader to appreciate the extent of the finds as well as their exceptional artistic quality.

The new »excavations« in the Giza storerooms have made it clear that research undertaken in storerooms is just as fruitful as excavating in the field.

AUTHOR



NICOLE ALEXANIAN is an Egyptologist and studied in Heidelberg, Bonn and Berlin. Since 1984 she has worked on numerous excavation projects in Egypt, and is currently the director of the DAI Cairo's venture at Dahshur (since 2007).

In the large relief frieze from the Valley Temple, small fragments which had fallen out over time could be re-fitted. The female offering bearers are personifications of estates that bring offerings to the king. The procession is geographically ordered and reflects the division of Egypt into domains and nomes



Gold Plates from the Tomb of Tutankhamun

Cultural Communication between Egypt and the Near East

Almost one hundred years ago, Howard Carter discovered the undisturbed tomb of the Pharaoh Tutankhamun. His spectacular tomb equipment, above all the funerary mask made of pure gold, utterly overwhelmed the public at the time. This material, which has been known for an extremely long time, can however still provide new insights. A new cooperation project investigates long-neglected fragments of gold plate with the aim of shedding light on the cultural exchange between the ruling powers of the Orient during the 14th century BC.

The 82 figuratively-decorated gold-plate fittings that are the focus of attention originate from the tomb of Tutankhamun discovered by HOWARD CARTER in 1922. The objects lay in the tomb's antechamber and treasury, and, in each case, were found in the immediate vicinity of the chariots preserved there. They date to the 14th century BC and consist of beaten and embossed gold foil that was applied to a base material. They are decorated with representations that partially consist of purely Egyptian motifs



Gold plate with a representation of the pharaoh Tutankhamun smiting his foes

but they also exhibit a number of motifs from diverse cultural traditions of the eastern Mediterranean region, which have been repeatedly designated within the scientific community as the so-called »international style«.

During the course of this research project, which is undertaken in cooperation with the Egyptian Museum in Cairo, the Institute for Ancient Near Eastern Studies (INAES) at the Uni-



One of the boxes in which diverse gold plate fragments from the tomb of Tutankhamun were stored

versity of Tübingen, the German Archaeological Institute Cairo and the Roman-Germanic Central Museum in Mainz, the gold plates will be described in detail and then studied with a focus on their function, processing technology and iconography. In addition, they will be restored and preserved, and analysed with an archaeometric approach.

The gold plate fittings were previously kept in a box in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo in an unrestored, fragmentary condition. They had neither been subject to extensive study nor had they been displayed in the museum. This treatment can be seen as an opportunity: due to the fact that no measures had been taken to restore the pieces, the remains of adhered material are still preserved thereby giving an indication where the pieces were originally attached. The base materials in question were presumably leather or untanned animal skin, but textile remains and a layer of a substance similar to gypsum plaster was also ascertained. For the technical analysis of the organ-

ic and inorganic components, the Roman-Germanic Central Museum in Mainz (RGZM) plays a decisive role, and its experts have devoted themselves to this challenging task on site in Cairo. The RGZM will apply its highly-specialized skills and will also provide the project with advanced scientific equipment thereby making an indispensable contribution to the research project. Due to the participation in other projects at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo in the past, the RGZM has gained an excellent reputation in Egypt, and has made important and constructive personal contacts so that the institute's participation in this project is also attractive to our Egyptian partners and was greeted with enthusiasm.

In view of the complex of problems involving the scientific reconstruction and identification of the group of objects, from which the decorated gold plate originates, the project can draw from other fruitful cooperations. SALIMA IKRAM (American University Cairo) und ANDRÉ VELDMEIJER (Netherlands-Flemish Institute in Cairo) recently carried out a project on the chariots of the Egyptian Museum, which mainly concentrated on the components made of leather that served in the construction of the chariot as well as their fittings. The parallel work of both projects in the Egyptian Museum provided ideal conditions for the achievement of optimum results made possible by the cooperation of proven specialists

Project idea

The idea for the project arose from a study of gold plate objects found in 2002 in the royal crypt of Qatna in Syria. These objects are also characterized by representations of the »international« motifs. Surprisingly, the gold plates from the tomb of Tutankhamun constitutes the closest parallel to the plates from Qatna. Both funerary contexts are dated to a similar period (the second half of the 14th century BC). The gold plates from Tutankhamun's tomb and from Qatna both served as part of the burial equipment, but with regard to their former function and the objects they were attached

to, both corpora have not yet been interpreted. Therefore, a corresponding scientific examination will yield results that will be highly relevant not only to the interpretation of the gold plate from Qatna but also to this object type in general. In addition, a direct comparison of similar groups of objects from the two important sites in Syria and Egypt will enable a better assessment of the reciprocal influence of Levantine and Egyptian motifs during the late Bronze Age period and their diffusion within a specific object type.

The »international style«

The underlying question of the project firstly focuses on the controversially-debated term of the so-called »international style« with reference to late Bronze Age art in the Near East, Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean region. This term designates a cultural model, which assumes that the production of late Bronze Age art was characterized by an intensive iconographical exchange, which in turn resulted in a process whereby works of art lost their regional cultural character and instead followed internationalised, intercultural conventions that had been standardized in the regions involved.

This type of cultural transfer was presumably triggered by the lively economic and diplomatic contacts between the two important political players of the second half of the second millennium BC. This contact not only induced artistic exchange in the form of artefacts and craftsmen; the works of art themselves wandered between the two regions as objects that were exchanged as elite products or as gifts. Certain scholars have even gone so far as to suggest that the »international style« of the objects was deliberately chosen with the intention of creating freely-circulating goods for diplomatic exchange, whose regional origin was no longer recognizable or rather should no longer be recognizable.

One of the most significant and extensive groups of objects assigned to the »international style« of the late Bronze Age period are, alongside the golden dagger sheath from the

same context, the 82 gold-plate fragments from the tomb of Tutankhamun.

These clear statements from the scientific community and the seemingly unequivocal assignment of the pieces to the »international style« is surprising as the gold-plate fragments have never been sufficiently published. The extremely inadequate work undertaken thus far on the gold plate in terms of descriptions, images and assessment has not provided a clear picture of these important remains. Therefore, a sound investigation of the gold plate is imperative in order to make the corpus accessible to the scientific community. Only then can methodically-founded, scientific statements be made on the basis of these artefacts. This is the only way to clarify the decisive and as yet unanswered question whether and, if so, how many of these pieces can actually be assigned to the »international style«. On the basis of this, many further questions could be answered, e.g. to what extent these objects provide evidence of cultural exchange and cultural communication between Egypt and the Near East during this period. In this way, it will also be investigated whether use of the term »international style« is justified at all when referring to the late Bronze Age period.

When examining the original objects from the tomb of Tutankhamun, an antecedent problem becomes clear in connection with the above-described iconographic topics, namely the objective identification of the original objects which were decorated with the gold plate as well as their reconstruction and classification as weapon accessories. So far, the gold plates have generally been interpreted as fittings for either chariots or quivers. However, the wide variety of forms preserved in the rich material indicates that they belong to very different groups of objects related to weapons and chariots. A functional reconstruction of the gold-plate fragments and the identification of the objects they originally belonged to can, therefore, provide new information on weapon and chariot technology and equipment in Egypt and in the Near East as intensive exchange took place between the two late

Bronze Age states of the eastern Mediterranean region that had chariots at their disposal.

Due to the fact that several gold-plate fragments clearly bear motifs and pictorial compositions that are not of Egyptian origin, these objects are particularly important for the current discussion on international artistic and cultural exchange during the late Bronze Age period. Regardless of whether they belong to the »international style« or not, the gold plates from the tomb of Tutankhamun most definitely belong to a group of objects that is decorated with »international motifs«. This refers to an extensive repertoire of motifs formed by various cultural influences from the Near East, the eastern Mediterranean region and Egypt. Amongst the most important motifs are e.g. representations of animals fighting (right-hand image), hunting scenes, the caprid and tree motif as well as diverse composite plants. Although these motifs are deeply rooted in the artistic traditions of Egypt and the Near East, from the late Bronze Age period onwards, they also appear throughout the entire eastern Mediterranean region, often in combination with one another. This is the reason why the origin of an object decorated with these motifs cannot be determined a priori.

This increasing adoption of originally foreign motifs and their intercultural amalgamation thereby creating a hybrid late Bronze Age artistic tradition can be explained by the close relationship between the major powers and states of the late Bronze Age that generated influences in different areas. Apart from military campaigns and territorial conflicts, a lively exchange took place between the rulers of the individual states and was accompanied by tribute offerings and gifts. Diplomatic marriages were arranged, and foreign officials held important posts at court. The cuneiform correspondences found in Tell el-Amarna provide important insights into the diplomatic relationships between the Egyptian Pharaoh and the kings of neighbouring empires as well as the Egyptian vassals of the Levantine city-states. Furthermore, an extensive trading network existed via which goods such as

metals, glass, semi-precious stones, other raw materials and luxury products as well as food were traded along different routes throughout the whole of the Near East and the eastern Mediterranean region. This international framework not only led to the import of foreign artworks; foreign influences also become visible in elite art. During this process, motifs that were originally foreign were gradually adopted and adapted in the artistic repertoire of each individual area. This development is particularly evident in the case of late



Representation of animals fighting: a caprid is being attacked by a dog and a griffin

Bronze Age ivory objects in the Levant. Foreign influence on Egyptian art is not only discernible with regard to small-scale objects; the wall-paintings in the palaces at Tell el-Dab'a and Malkata also show Aegean influence. When investigating the transfer of iconographic motifs, it should always be kept in mind that the symbolic meaning of the adopted motifs, which often appeared in combination with one another, was not necessarily understood in the same way in all the regions where these motifs are attested.

Therefore, a methodically-based, art-historical study of the gold-plate fragments from the tomb of Tutankhamun can make an important contribution to the current discussion on the art of the International Age of the late

Bronze Age period. A specific feature of this corpus is particularly beneficial to the proj-

modified body proportions are still visible to a certain degree. Consequently, it is evident that the second group of gold-plate fragments were clearly produced in Egypt itself. A comparison of these two main groups as well as an overall study of the corpus will, therefore, be very instructive for gaining new insights into the iconography and internationality of the late 18th Dynasty. Furthermore, the study will offer the chance to considerably extend the repertoire of objects with »international motifs«, and to further our knowledge on the dispersion and adaptation of these motifs.



Preliminary work

An essential stage in the preliminary work of this project was the constitution of an interdisciplinary team of researchers who could meet the challenge of examining the gold-plate fragments from the tomb of Tutankhamun in a competent way.

The corresponding research team came together in 2011 and 2012 to make a start on the complex organisational preparations for the project, which also had to take the dramatic political events in Egypt at the time into account.

Firstly, the 82 gold plates were viewed in the storeroom of the Egyptian Museum and their state of preservation was examined. Intensive talks then followed with the relevant conservators and the museum's directorate on how to carry out a joint project plan. During this initial stage, it quickly became clear that considerable restoration work was necessary. Many of the plates comprised of several fragments that first needed to be reassembled. In fact, the restoration of the objects was an essential prerequisite for further scientific study.

With the appointment of two colleagues from the RGZM, a workgroup consisting of members from the fields of restoration and the natural sciences came together to carry out the planned venture and to train Egyptian colleagues for future cooperation.



❶ *The Egyptian Minister of Antiquities, Mohammed Ibrahim, the conservator of the RGZM, Christian Eckmann, the Director of the Egyptian Museum, Said Amer, and the Deputy Ambassador of the German Federal Republic, Kai Boeckmann (from left to right) at the inauguration of a new laboratory* ❷ *German and Egyptian scientists at work in the laboratory*

ect: part of the fragments bears motifs from an international repertoire whereas others are purely Egyptian with no recognizable signs of foreign influence. The latter are decorated in the typical style of the post-Amarna period where features of Amarna art such as the

In addition to the fields of restoration and Near Eastern archaeology, Egyptology is also indispensable for the assessment of the original Egyptian iconography and the stylistic features on the gold plates as well as their contextualization in the overall stylistic development of Egyptian art.

The subject-specific supervision by a number of Egyptologists and Near Eastern archaeologists guarantees the interdisciplinary character during the evaluation of the technical and iconographic analysis of the gold plates. For this purpose, comparable material from Egypt and the Levant has already been viewed. Another, important foundation for the assessment of the gold plates has been laid by the scientific study of middle and late Bronze Age art from the Levant that bears the »international motifs«, especially the Egyptian-influenced wall-paintings from Tell el-Burak in the Lebanon, and the ivory and bone inlays from the royal crypt in Qatna.

Project aims

The project aims to gain knowledge on two fronts: on the one hand, an important but neglected and inaccessible material group from one of the most spectacular archaeological contexts of the ancient world, the tomb of Tutankhamun, will be comprehensively analysed for the first time within the frame of this project using a wide range of scientific methods from restoration and conservation, as well as material analysis and graphical documentation to a comparative study of iconography and style, and subsequently published.

On the other hand, a highly-relevant, topical scientific question will be addressed with an interdisciplinary approach, the answer to which will considerably advance our understanding of international, cultural communication in the wider area of the Near East, Egypt and the eastern Mediterranean region during the late Bronze Age period. A positive side effect of the project constitutes the presentation of a new material group from the tomb of Tut-

ankhamun in a newly-conceived exhibition in the Egyptian Museum. Moreover, on the initiative of the DAI Cairo, extensive financial support was granted by the Federal Foreign Office.

These funds were used to build a conservation laboratory in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo and to further educate Egyptian conservators at the RGZM in Mainz. Consequently, two conservators from the Egyptian Museum were chosen to work on the project in cooperation with the RGZM. In the frame of a further education scholarship granted by the DAI Cairo, they completed an initial, one-month period of further education at the RGZM in December 2012, and were trained in the work processes that are essential to the successful completion of the project.

Technical equipment and installation fittings for the laboratory in the Egyptian Museum were acquired in the November and December of 2012 and also financed by funds from the Transformation Partnership Programme of the Federal Foreign Office. In the following spring, the technical equipment was installed on site by members of the RGZM. In addition, the project was granted long-term funding by the German Research Foundation.

AUTHORS



STEPHAN SEIDLMEYER is an Egyptologist and Professor of the Freie Universität Berlin. He has been active in Egypt for almost 30 years. Since 2009, he presides over the Cairo department as its director.



CHRISTIAN ECKMANN is a conservator and works for the Roman-Germanic Central Museum in Mainz. He was jointly responsible for the restoration and conservation of the large and small copper statues of Pepi I in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo.

Abydos

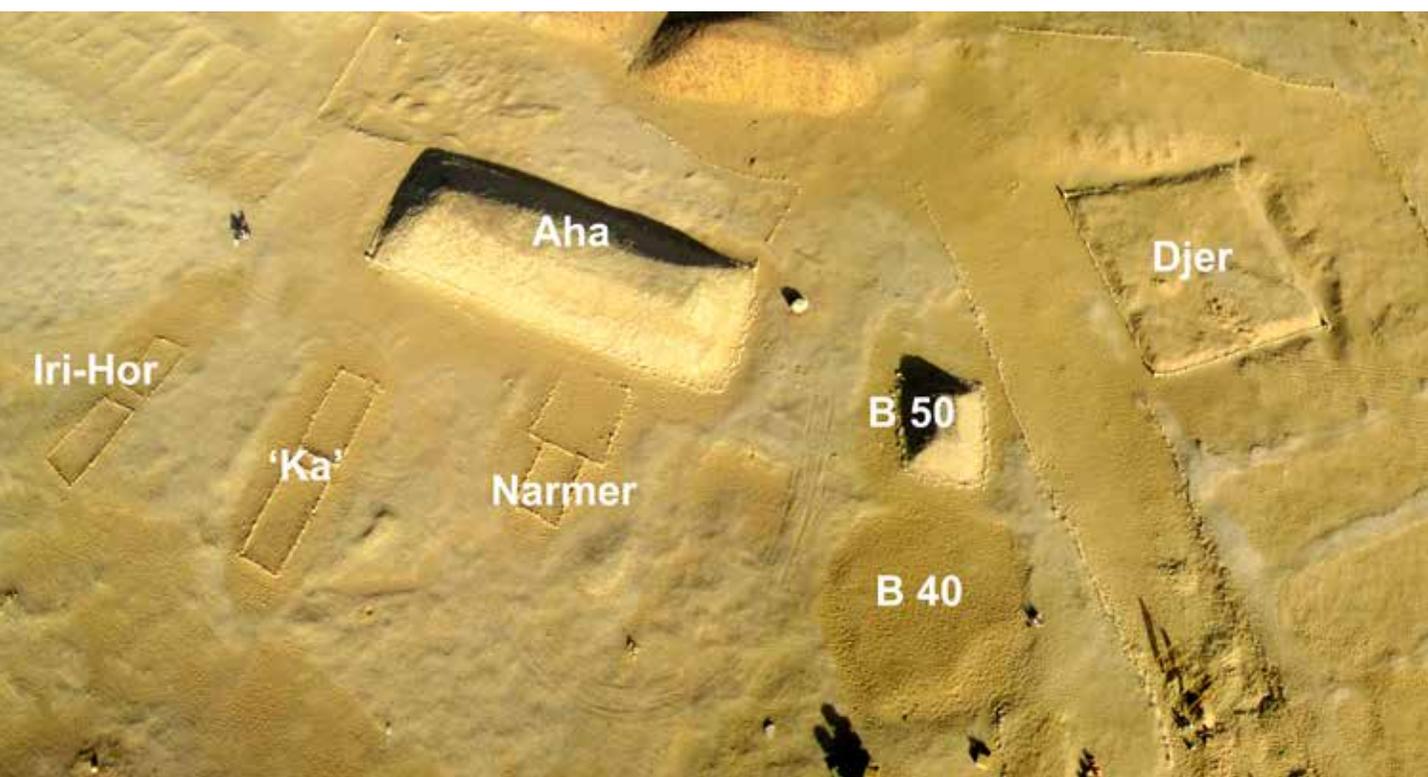
From the Early Dynastic Period to the Beginning of the Common Era

The exact circumstances in which graves were dug into the ground of a flat elevation in the lower desert area of Abydos almost 5800 years ago still remain unknown. Over the following centuries, the necropolis of the first kings who ruled over the whole of Egypt evolved at this spot from an elite cemetery of the Naqada period. The burial site of legendary divine rulers was also localized here. One of the most important cult centres of Egypt was formed: a necropolis for the gods with the tomb of the mythical king and god Osiris in its centre.

Abydos encompasses a large number of different archaeological sites: small- and large-scale sacred complexes, cemeteries and settlements.

The Early Dynastic necropolis with elite and royal tombs, known today by its modern Arabic name Umm el-Qa'āb (the 'mother of pots') is merely a small part of the large sacred space that makes up Abydos, but an incredibly important one. Situated in the centre of the Abydene cultic landscape, Umm el-Qa'āb links the religious ideas and the sacred, performative activities with the individual monuments in Abydos. However, the nature of the mythemes and religious concepts localized at this site seems to have been lost already well into the predynastic period.

Umm el-Qa'āb is situated 1.5 km to the west of the temples of Sety I and Ramses II that were built in the early 19th Dynasty (ca. 1300 BC), and roughly midway between the boundary of the fertile plain and the escarpment of the impressive western plateau that forms a wide bay in this area almost like a theatre backdrop. Approximately one kilometre from Umm el-Qa'āb, a wadi cuts through the rugged plateau in the southwest corner of the bay. It runs around the area of the necropolis and continues to the fertile plain ending in the area of the modern village Beni Mansur and an Early Dynastic settlement in the vicinity of the Kom es-Sultan, the site of a large, and mostly destroyed temple dedicated to the god Osiris-Khentimentiu. The wadi was created by



erosion and still functions as a natural water course running from the mountains after occasional rainfall in the desert region.

The topographical focus of the necropoleis and sacred complexes at Abydos concentrated on the southern area of the bay as all features and monuments were oriented towards this point. This indicates that this area and also the orientation of the early monuments towards the wadi already played a significant role during the early occupation history, and perhaps also reflects a certain original sacred quality.

The necropolis areas of Umm el-Qa'āb

Umm el-Qa'āb evolved from north to south and consists of three areas. Cemetery U in the north comprises ca. 650 graves from the predynastic period that developed from the simple grave pits of the early Naqada I period towards the end of the occupation phase to an elite burial site with the larger structures of the late predynastic rulers (ca. 3800–3150 BC).

Cemetery B lies in the middle of the necropolis with the burials of the last predynastic rulers (ca. 3150–3050 BC) such as Iry-Hor, 'Ka' and Narmer as well as the large funerary complex of king Aha, who is often identified with the king known in later primary sources as the mythical founder of the Egyptian state, Menes.

The largest area is located in the south: the tomb complexes of six kings and one queen of the First Dynasty, namely Djer, Djed, Den, Anedjib, Semerkhet, Qa'a and Merneith as well as two kings of the Second Dynasty, Peribsen and Khasekhemwy (ca. 3050–2800 BC).

Aerial view of the early royal tombs in the necropolis at Abydos



At the furthest part of the concession area to the north-east and adjacent to Cemetery U, lies the so-called Hekareshu hill with an offering place and a cult site that were probably in use since the late Old Kingdom until well into the Late Period.



The tomb of king Djer during excavation. The protective layer of sand has been removed for excavation work so that the inner tomb chamber made of mud bricks is visible. The ›Anubis mountain‹ can be seen in the background

Excavation history

After AUGUSTE MARIETTE rediscovered the site for scientific study in 1870, intensive excavations were carried out in Umm el-Qa'āb towards the end of the 19th and at the beginning of the 20th century by ÉMILE AMÉLINEAU (1895–1899), W. M. F. PETRIE (1899–1901), ÉDOUARD NAVILLE and ERIC PEET (1909–1911). HENRY HALL (1925) and later WALTER B. EMERY also carried out research on smaller, limited areas, but the results of the two British scholars were never published.

During the course of these excavations, the approximately 150 x 600 m-large area was almost entirely turned over. In addition to the original high mounds of pottery, heaps of up to 11 metres in height containing burial equipment, votive material, rubble, sherds and spoil resulted from the excavation work.

In 1977, the DAI resumed scientific study of the site under the aegis of WERNER KAISER and GÜNTHER DREYER. The initial aim of this excavation was to further the understanding of the funerary architecture during Egypt's Early Dynastic period.

Abydos - Umm el-Qa'ab

Royal Necropolis of the Protodynastic Period

General Plan

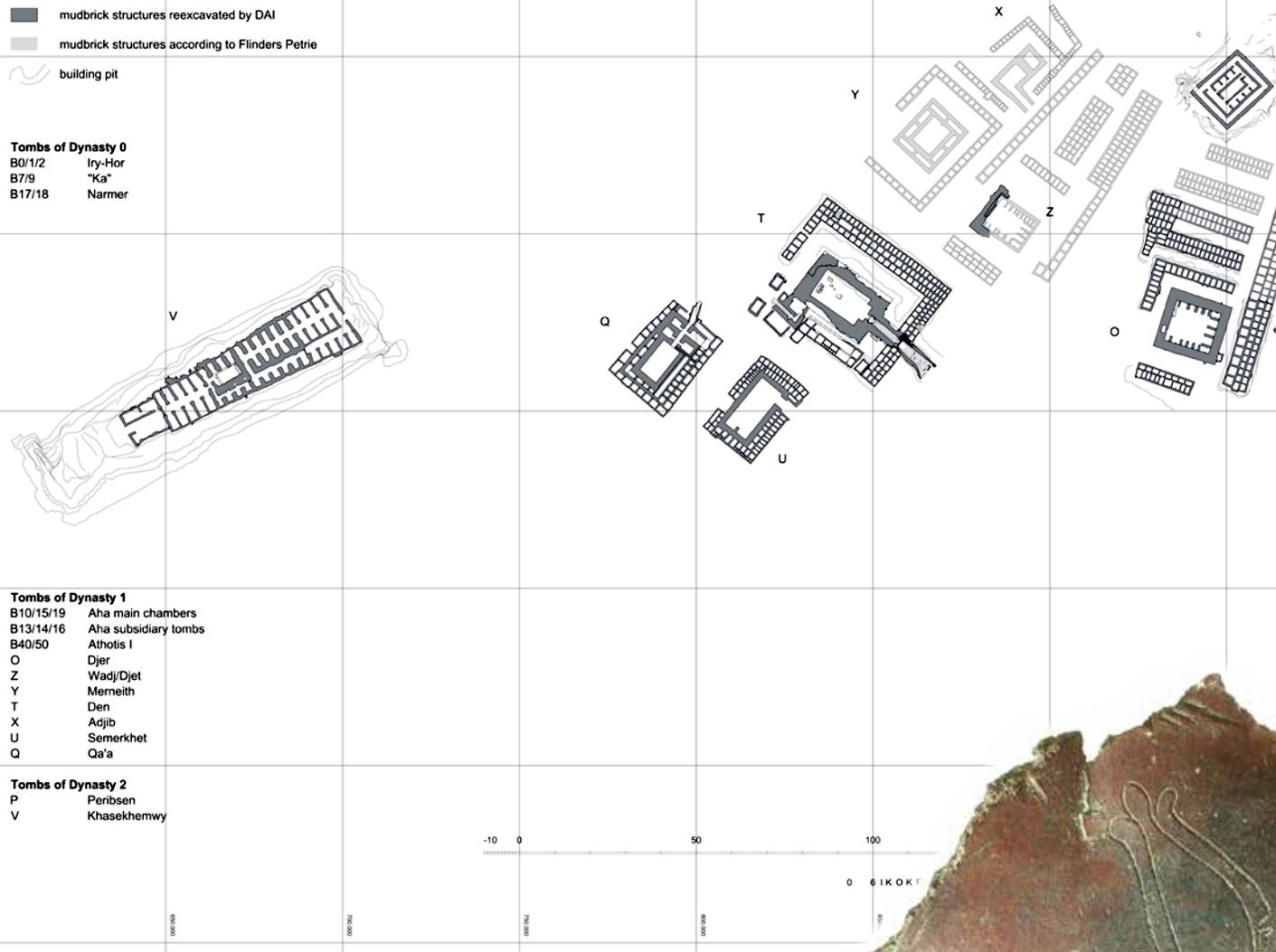
Key Legend

-  mudbrick structures reexcavated by DAI
-  mudbrick structures according to Flinders Petrie
-  building pit

- Tombs of Dynasty 0**
- B0/1/2 Iry-Hor
 - B7/9 "Ka"
 - B17/18 Narmer

- Tombs of Dynasty 1**
- B10/15/19 Aha main chambers
 - B13/14/16 Aha subsidiary tombs
 - B40/50 Athotis I
 - O Djer
 - Z Wadj/Djet
 - Y Merneith
 - T Den
 - X Adjib
 - U Semerkhet
 - Q Qa'a

- Tombs of Dynasty 2**
- P Peribsen
 - V Khasekhemwy

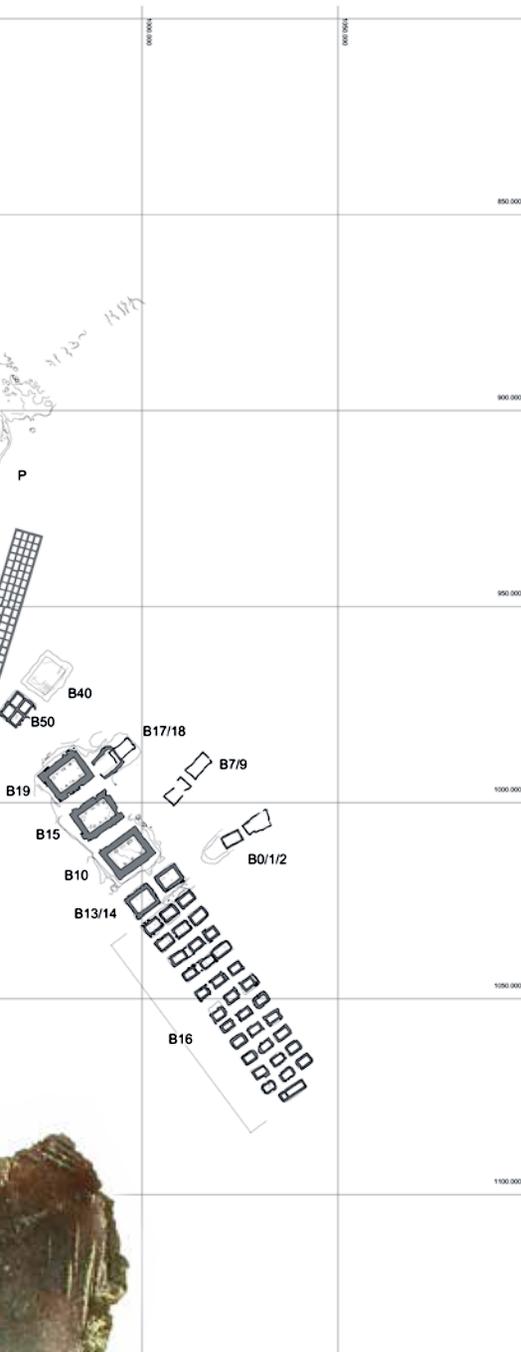


On the edge of the underworld

The wadi and its entrance in the cliffs at the edge of the desert at Abydos held a particular funerary meaning which is reflected by the architecture of the First Dynasty buildings. In fact, during the course of his investigations on the Early Dynastic royal tombs, GÜNTHER DREYER discovered ›false exits‹ that were oriented in the direction of the wadi's mouth to the southwest of the tombs. He presumed that these exits leading out of the tomb marked the be-

ginning of an entrance into the underworld through which the kings of the First and Second Dynasties hoped to reach the afterlife. The idea of such an exit seems to exist from the funerary complex of king Djer; at least the idea is evident in royal funerary architecture from Djer onwards.

Furthermore, every single royal tomb constitutes only half of the total, interconnected

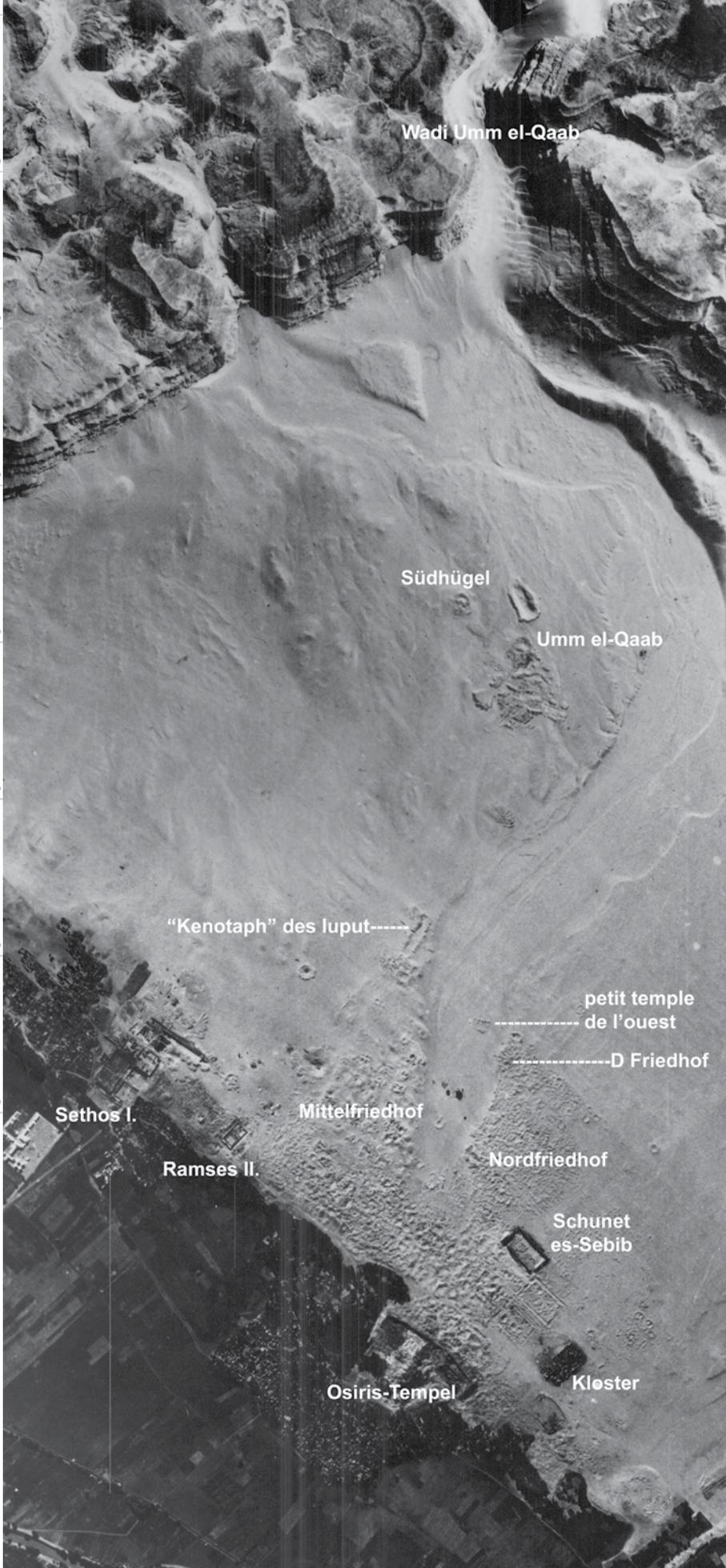


Above: plan of the Early Dynastic necropolis at Abydos with its extensive complexes of tombs belonging to the first pharaohs



Left: bronze plate fragment with a representation of Osiris, the ruler of the underworld

Right: aerial view of the necropolis area, the entrance to the wadi and the temple landscape at the edge of the cultivation



funerary complex. The second half consists of the so-called valley enclosures located near to the boundary between the desert and the fertile plain. Seen from the cultivation, the dried-up wadi formed a natural path that led towards Umm el-Qa'āb and then gradually ascended, cutting through the escarpment of the plateau on the western horizon. The tombs and the ›valley enclosures‹ are therefore interconnected by the wadi that runs from the plateau. This route is exactly the same as the one used centuries later as a processional way during festivities for the god Osiris. The aim of these festivals was to enable Osiris to overcome death. Connected with this was the belief in or the hope of a continued existence in the afterlife. One of the reasons for this associative localization of an Osirid perspective on the afterlife obviously lay in the notion, which took shape during the Early Dynastic period, of an entrance into the underworld at Abydos. At the latest since the Early Dynastic period, this site was perceived as a border region between the world of the living and the world of the dead, and as the entrance into the Egyptian underworld.

The localization of a myth

Once it became necessary to contextualize the ideas, religious concepts and images surrounding the god Osiris, who became increasingly significant from the 5th Dynasty onwards, the decision inevitably fell on Abydos. The episodes and places in the myth were sought in the sacralized landscape and projected into it. Consequently, the bay of Abydos should be understood as a mythologized landscape.

The tomb of the god and mythical king Osiris was localized in the middle of the necropolis of the real, early kings of Egypt. The tomb in question is the aforementioned tomb of king Djer from the First Dynasty.

The natural topography of the landscape became one with religious connotations. The ancient sacred, religious topography of the Early Dynastic period that connected the roy-

al tombs with the ›valley enclosures‹ and the temple area was then adopted in later times as a route for the Osiris procession: the dry riverbed became a processional way.



Pottery sherds with ink inscriptions: they show the cartouches of king Osorkon I of the early 22nd Dynasty

Osiris – King and God

The worship of Osiris is inextricably linked with the individual hope of participating in the resurrection of the deceased god in the afterlife. This hope explains the innumerable documents and relicts of non-royal individuals who affiliated themselves with the procession axis by erecting a stela or constructing a chapel.

However, the myth surrounding Osiris also had a direct influence on Egyptian royal ideology and the royal cult. The real, legitimate king was bound to the generation of gods that ruled

The numerous projects of the DAI Cairo range from archaeological fieldwork at approximately 20 sites to extensive conservation work and site management conception. In addition, several scholars employed by the Cairo department are currently working on web-based databases and online resources, which will greatly facilitate and enrich scientific work and research possibilities in the future.

Delta

Tell el-Fara'in/Buto

The excavations of the DAI Cairo in Buto were continued during a campaign in spring and autumn. The work once again focused on the investigation of Early Dynastic settlement layers.

In the spring of 2013, the entrance area of a palace complex, which was built in the late 1st Dynasty and destroyed by fire around the middle of the 2nd Dynasty, was clarified. Even though this area of the palace complex was considerably damaged by overlying, later structures, and was only preserved to a height of a few brick layers, evidence was found of a door jamb probably composed of limestone blocks. The entranceway

situated at the northwest corner of the complex is only ca. 1.1 m wide, and it cannot be ruled out that the whole structure was surrounded by a wide and as yet unearthed enclosure wall with a representative entrance gate.

A long, winding corridor led from the newly-excavated entrance to a centrally-located reception room, which in turn gave access to other areas of the extensive structure. In one room situated in the immediate vicinity of the entrance, a roughly 1.2 m-deep, undisturbed but empty chamber came to light. A narrow ramp built using compact Nile clay seems to symbolize an entrance to this space, but the chamber itself had been refilled and covered with a floor thereby making it inaccessible. The function of this construction still eludes interpretation.

In other excavated areas and during the autumn campaign, additional parts of a structure were uncovered that had been built in the early 1st Dynasty previous to the palace complex. In the courtyard areas between the individual buildings, storage vessels set into the ground, hearths and the remains of circular granaries give an indication of the agricultural and household activities of the occupants. Of particular interest are several ovens that were used to heat bread moulds into which dough was pressed. The used and broken bread moulds were then disposed of in large pits situated near to the ovens.

Alongside the excavations, work was also continued on the finds particularly the pottery, the various small finds and the seal impressions thereby providing further information on Buto's incorporation in the economical and administrative network of Early Dynastic Egypt.

ULRICH HARTUNG

Entrance area of the Early Dynastic palace complex in Buto. The empty chamber set into the ground is visible in the middle of the photo



Middle Egypt

Dahshur

The DAI Cairo has been active at the royal necropolis of Dahshur located to the south of Cairo since 1975. The aim of the investigations is the reconstruction of the ancient landscape with its funerary monuments, shrines, and settlements.

Although Dahshur has been greatly affected by illicit excavations and illegal building, together with



❶ *Deir el-Bakhît: former forecourt of a Pharaonic tomb, which was later incorporated into the monastic complex (view of the northern enclosure wall above the hewn bedrock)* ❷ *Magnetometric investigations in the foreground of the Red Pyramid in Dahshur*



the fact that it has been extremely difficult to receive work permission from the military, our team was able to carry out fieldwork in 2013 on the lower causeway and in the Valley Temple of the Bent Pyramid as well as in the workers' settlements located to the south of the Red Pyramid and to the north of the causeway leading to the Bent Pyramid (ca. 2600 BC).

The archaeological and architectural investigation of the Bent Pyramid's Valley Temple was continued. During cleaning work, we were surprised to establish that the brick building initially discovered by AHMED FAKHRY situated to the north of the Valley Temple is older than previously assumed, and possibly evolved when construction on the Bent Pyramid was started (year 8 of the count). Surface cleaning and magnetometric investigations also revealed that the brick structure was surrounded by a massive enclosure wall which continued beyond the building to the north.

Future excavations will hopefully yield more information on the function of the precinct. In light of recent results however, previous interpretations of the brick building as

a storeroom or a priest's house need to be questioned.

Magnetometric investigations in a 4 ha-large area to the north of the temple complex have established the existence of an extensive settlement. The individual house plots lie to the north and south of an east-to-west running street. The pottery finds on the surface prove that the settlement was built and occupied during the construction of the Bent Pyramid.

Another settlement is situated to the south of the Red Pyramid. Test excavations were carried out here in earlier times that showed that the settlement was used by workers during the construction of the Red Pyramid. It was only after magnetometric measurements were taken in the spring of 2013 that we were able to recognize that the settlement in question consisted of approx. 26 x 5 m-large barracks similar to the ones found at Giza. The barracks in Dahshur constitute the chronological precursor to the gallery complex at Heit el-Gurab, Giza.

Future investigations in the workers' settlements will undoubtedly provide us with important answers

to the questions of how the building site of a pyramid was organised and how the workers on these building sites lived.

NICOLE ALEXANIAN

Thebes

Deir el-Bakhît – The Monastery of Saint Paul

As the investigations undertaken during the last few years have shown, the Monastery of Saint Paul on the hilltop of Dra' Abu el-Naga (Deir el-Bakhît) is not only the oldest monastery known to date, it is also the longest-occupied complex in Western Thebes. Therefore, an excavation campaign lasting several weeks took place in the spring of 2013 in order to study an area that had not yet been the subject of investigation, i.e. the northern area of the monastic complex.

Even before the excavation work began, large-scale rooms could be made out as the wall copings were partially visible above the surface. The functional clarification of this spatial unit was imperative, particularly in light of the fact that the



① *On-site cleaning and consolidation and ② two of the stacked coffins in the inner courtyard of K93.12*

monastery's church still remained undiscovered. Particular attention was given to a flat, undeveloped area in the northwest corner as the high-lying bedrock in this area had been hewn out and reinforced with dry-stone walls that surround the room. In 2003, Peter Grossmann assumed that the room in question possibly constituted the forecourt of an unfinished Pharaonic tomb. As the remains of a pylon were uncovered during the campaign, this suggestion could be confirmed. At some point during the Late Antique/early medieval period, the forecourt was integrated into the monastery and continued to serve as an open

courtyard. In the southwest corner of this open courtyard, the remains of a staircase indicate that a small two-storey building stood at the time of the monastery's occupation. On the ground floor, there was only one room with a floor composed, amongst other things, of spolia bearing Pharaonic inscriptions. The reuse of blocks with Pharaonic inscriptions and reliefs as flooring, for staircases or in the foundations for overlying mud-brick walls is a common phenomenon throughout the entire monastery.

Furthermore, two other large-scale rooms to the west of the open courtyard were also investigated. During this work, it transpired that the majority of this area had, at some, as yet undated point in time, been filled up with white limestone chippings. Spatial units were then developed on top of this fill during a considerably later phase. The discovery of four oversized clay vats that can be attributed to this later phase indicates that this area was connected with production activities that took place in the monastery.

The monastery's church could not be identified within the areas excavated during this campaign and remains one of the main aims for future excavation campaigns in Deir el-Bakhît.

INA EICHNER/THOMAS BECKH

The double tomb complex K93.11/K93.12 in Dra' Abu el-Naga

During the course of excavations undertaken in the tomb of the high priest of Amun, Amenophis (K93.12) in Thebes, the remains of numerous wooden coffins dating to the 21st and 22nd Dynasties (ca. 1050–900 BC) came to light.

In the meantime, 22 mummy boards and coffin lids have been recovered. They had been removed from their original burials by tomb

robbers and carelessly strewn over the courtyard.

Due to their extremely fragmentary condition, the coffins could not be moved. Therefore the consolidation and documentation took place on site. The wood, which served as the base material for a white limestone undercoat and an overlying layer of paint, has almost completely decayed. By contrast, the undercoat as well as the paint layer are both well preserved and show a vivid, delicate decoration. The challenge presented here is to stabilize the decoration layers in such a way that facsimiles of the surfaces can be made and that the coffins can be transported to the corresponding storerooms. The consolidation of the coffins is effected by means of injecting a solution made of artificial resin, which solidifies the layers without leaving marks or a shiny coating on the surface.

The investigation of the coffin lids yielded alongside technological information, various interesting findings on the iconography and typology of these objects. Five coffins show e.g. mummy bands which cross over the chest, an iconographical feature of the late 21st and 22nd Dynasties whereas six others can be dated to the middle of the 21st Dynasty. A central question that will be pursued during future excavation work is the identification of the original burial sites of these coffins, which at present is thought to be in several, as yet unexcavated intrusive shafts.

STÉPHANE FETLER

Aswan

A smart-phone-based travel guide to the Aswan region

An important aspect of archaeological fieldwork is the systematic preparation of data collected at

complex sites as well as the ensuing results and to present them in such a way that they can be made accessible to a wider public. Normally, printed visitor guides, brochures and information boards are used to communicate this knowledge. In view of the rapid development of mobile devices such as smart phones and tablet PCs, the demand for alternative, digital and multi-media information tools is continually on the rise.

As a consequence, a joint project between the Cairo department (project »The rock inscriptions of the Aswan region«) and the architecture department of the head office (project »The ancient harbour town of Milet«) was initiated in the summer of 2013 with funds from the DAI with the aim of developing and testing a digital visitor guide system of the archaeological sites concerned.

The Cairo project aims to create a web- and smart-phone-based travel guide to the sights of the entire Aswan region that will provide tourists as well as locals, particularly local archaeologists, with general information on specific sites as well as data adapted to the current state of research. This will include essential background information and interesting facts about the individual sights, and also (optional) additional in-depth information on e.g. overlying themes and questions. When all of these information components are combined, the user will be able to get to know a site, a building or a monument in its multi-faceted historical context. The hierarchical sorting and interlinkage of the different contributions also allows the visitor to determine the extent to which he would like to deepen his knowledge on certain subjects and which focus topics he would like to learn more about. Automatic detection of the visitor's location via GPS as well as intelligent navigation on the basis of an integrated geo-information system complete the package on offer. As a result, a flexible information service will be made

available to all interested parties so that they can explore Aswan and its history according to their own individual needs and interests.

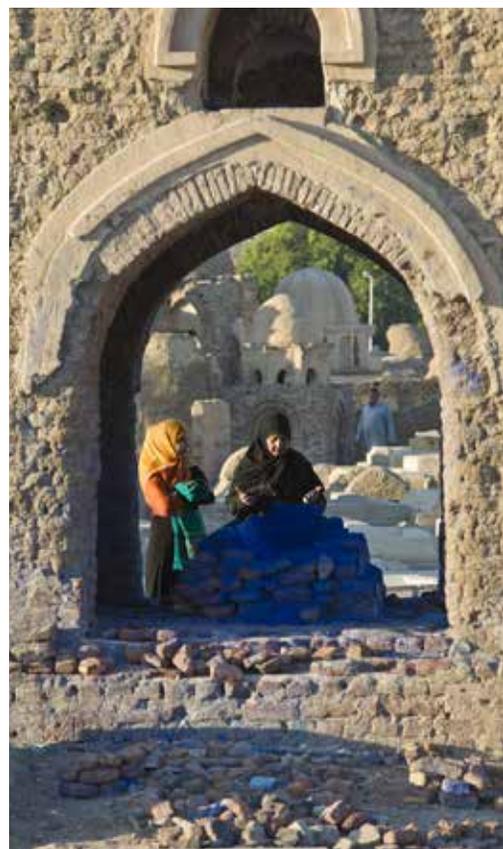
LINDA BORRMANN

The holy landscape of Aswan – Popular mysticism and the cult of Muslim saints

The focus of this ethnographical study lies on a portrayal of the holy landscape of Aswan ranging between modern Islam on the one side and ancient history on the other. During the study of villages on both sides of the Nile as well as the Nubian region between the reservoir dams, different tendencies in the worship of holy figures were established. A multitude of small chapels and holy sites (e.g. rocks in the Nile) with local cults constitute an unorthodox antithesis to the great sheikhs, who are recognized and propagandised by Sunnite Islam, and who have apparently played an undisputed role in spreading the religion and are therefore known beyond the city's boundaries.

Despite the debates concerning pure and true Islam, and the strict endeavours to adapt personal piety to the official, doctrine-defined belief, no resolved attempts have been made to put an end to popular mysticism. Ritual activities on a small, private scale as well as the intake of people into Sufi communities, who are socially interconnected throughout the whole of Egypt, are on the rise parallel to the growing political and economical problems of the country. The ritual life of the Nubians, which has always been shaped by the Nile, and their folkloric beliefs connected with the river are coupled with the worship of Islamic saints, and are therefore maintained in a slightly different form.

Due to the wish of participating in the divine blessing of the sheikh in the afterlife, a cemetery often



Visit to the tombs during the festival of sacrifice. A woman prays at the tomb of a saint in the cemetery at Aswan

evolves around his chapel. Funerary customs and visits to the cemetery therefore ensure services to the saint, whose worship is almost always expressed as a funerary cult. The early Islamic necropolis situated to the south of the city's plain, became the burial site of a large number of historical and contemporary sheikhs, which resulted in the development of the site as a ritual space par excellence. Here, descendants of the prophet's family, personalities from the Fatimid period, Sufi masters, lesser saints and personal belief in the hereafter, which is sometimes rooted in ancient Egyptian ideas, all come together. Mourning ceremonies, offering cults, pilgrimages, wedding ceremonies, the festivals of saints and memorial events continually give life to the cemetery and provide us with a vivid picture of a bustling Egypt, which does not seem to have



① and ② *The two restored tombs in the Fatimid cemetery at Aswan* ③ *Deir Anba Hadra. View of the walled monastery and its enormous tower house from the southeast*

suffered any loss of religious wealth in terms of concepts and practices.

NADIA EL-SHOHOUMI

The Fatimid cemetery in Aswan

In 2013, only one campaign took place between the 1st and the 28th of February.

The southern necropolis (the area under investigation measures 600 x 500 m) lies to the south of the historical centre of Aswan and is delimited in the west by the Nubian Museum and, in the east by the quarry with the unfinished obelisk. Alongside Pharaonic and Antique quarries, ca. 50 mausoleums and several hundred simple tombs are situated at the site. The southern necropolis was regularly used particularly during the Fatimid period and is therefore called the Fatimid cemetery.

The work of the campaign focused on restoration measures in the sector, which has been conceived as a visitor's park. Multilingual information panels provide both the local population as well as foreign tourists with information on the history of the site, the cults of saints and the tomb buildings. The

area is clearly marked with a simple metal fence so that mourners are not disturbed by visitors, and to hinder access to the often fragile tombs.

In this frame, two simple, adjacent, but slightly offset tombs were restored in their entirety for the first time (tomb 1: 3.3 x 2 m and tomb 2: 3.4 x 1.9 m). The fact that the tombs were built so close together can presumably be explained by close family ties between the two buried individuals. During the course of our work, numerous double tombs of this kind were found. Both tombs are also a good example for the way in which different building ground reflects the choice of tomb type. In the case of the first tomb, the deceased was buried aboveground in a box grave which was covered with a vault. This type was chosen due to the high level of the bedrock directly underneath the tomb. In the second case, the deceased was interred in the ground which is why the tomb has a multi-layered encasement. Both structures were made of bricks. An interesting feature, and one which has not yet been interpreted, is the surface decoration. This consists of a horizontal, flat niche moulded on top of the tomb oriented north-to-south with

the ogival end in the south marking the head of the buried individual. According to the unanimous opinion of specialists, this feature is a religious symbol and could possibly even represent a mausoleum in abstract form. At the southern end of both tombs, a platform with a small prayer niche has been attached. The platform and prayer niche constitute the place where family members and other visitors carry out their prayers.

Work undertaken in 2013 included the protection of the preserved parts of the two tombs as well as the addition of their missing structural components. As a final measure, they were covered with a limestone or clay plaster. Particular attention was paid to the use of traditional materials and work techniques. In addition, extensive measures were also undertaken to protect two mausoleums and various simple tombs.

PHILIPP SPEISER

The monastery of Saint Simeon at Aswan

In March 2013, an epigraphic survey was conducted in the medieval monastery Deir Anba Hadra (also

known as the monastery of Saint Simeon) on the west bank of Aswan.

This monastery, which is one of the best preserved monastic complexes throughout Egypt, was excavated between 1924 and 1926 by UGO MONNERET DE VILLARD but only published in part. Over the last 70 years, the monastery has not attracted much scholarly attention. Central to the work in 2013 were the numerous Coptic inscriptions made by the occupants and visitors to the monastery between the 10th and the early 15th centuries.

The secondary Coptic inscriptions that were made on the walls of the church and other buildings within the monastery complex, scratched into the plaster or written with red and black ink on the plaster, are particularly important in terms of the monastery's architectural history as several of them have an absolute date. As witnesses to travel activities, the contact between Christians and Muslims (who also left a great amount of Arabic inscriptions) during the Middle Ages, and the use of Coptic written language during the process of Arabization in Egypt, they are also an important source for the social history of the region. During the survey, a systematic photographic documentation and register of all preserved Coptic dipinti and graffiti of the Deir Anba Hadra was compiled; the register also included dipinti and graffiti that can no longer be found. Of the 220 numbers recorded, only 80 have been mentioned or published in the available literature so far. The majority of the inscriptions recorded during the survey are unpublished.

Another priority of the survey was to explore the possibilities of extensively re-documenting Deir Anba Hadra in terms of its architectural history, epigraphy, art history, ceramics and archaeological features. The soundings taken proved that such a project is possible and also extremely worthwhile to such an extent that a preliminary campaign

has since been planned and carried out by the DAI and sponsored by the European Foundation of the Rahn Dittrich Group for Education and Culture. The results of the epigraphic survey have already been incorporated into a master's thesis completed by LENA KRÄSTEL with the title »Koptische Inschriften im Raum Aswân« (Heidelberg 2013).

TONIO SEBASTIAN RICHTER

Cairo

Topographical-geographical subject indexing of the library holdings

Equipped with almost 43000 volumes which are annually consulted by approx. 1000 users, the library of the Cairo department is one of the largest and most-regularly frequented research institutions in Egypt. However, the mere size of the library holdings is not the only reason for the great amount of visitors: its unique scientific profile also provides both Egyptian and international scholars with an extremely beneficial work basis. With a thematic specialisation on the archaeology and history of the country and its adjacent regions, the in-house holdings offer a remarkably wide range of transdisciplinary literature resources housed under one roof. In order to consolidate the Cairo library according to its specific characteristic traits, the library was incorporated into the DFG-programme »Outstanding Research Libraries« in 2013. Consequently, work was started on indexing the holdings on the basis of topographical-geographical keywords.

In the frame of this project, work was continued on the database that holds the names of places and regions in and around Egypt, which currently contains data records for a total of 415 toponyms (Abu Gurab to Zawiyet Sultan). In a second step, work was also started on the index-

ing of the Cairo department's literature holdings. For this purpose, the Egyptological-archaeological periodicals, particularly the in-house series, were systematically processed in such a way that ca. 600 links were created to entries in the online catalogue of the DAI libraries (www.zenon.dainst.org) by the end of the year. At the same time, geographical coordinates in a geographic information system (GIS) connected to the topographical database were assigned to each individual indexed place name. In this way, it is now possible to retrieve place-specific literature references as well as references to sites in their proximal geographical surroundings (»regional search«) by selecting points on an interactive map.

LINDA BORRMANN

New tidings from Socrates, the tax collector – The Michigan Papyri of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo

In the frame of the project »The Michigan Papyri of the Egyptian Museum in Cairo«, 30 texts have been studied and prepared for publication. The majority of these texts were excavated in 1926 in a house located in the village of Karanis in the north-eastern Fayum area by American archaeologists. It has long been known that a man named Socrates lived in this house in the 2nd century AD. Socrates collected taxes in Karanis for the Roman Empire. He went from door to door and received – at least in the majority of cases – the requested amount against receipt. He wrote long lists with the names of those who had paid their head tax, the tax for the maintenance of dykes and canals, and garden plots etc. The Romans levied taxes on almost everything. The numerous manuscripts owned by Socrates also include lists and receipts.

Socrates became rich with this job. He owned fields outside the

village, and was married with three children, two sons and one daughter.



Papyrus fragment from the house of Socrates in Karanis/Fayum

Although Socrates himself did not hold Roman citizenship (his wife was a Roman citizen with all the associated privileges of the time), he obviously wanted to belong to the village's elite but also to be viewed as an educated man. Educated meant 1. that you could read and write Greek and 2. that you knew some of the great literature of the

past and could perhaps even quote some of it. Finds from Socrates' house bear witness to this wish for education: in his library there was a papyrus scroll with the comedy »Men at Arbitration (Epitrepontes)« written by Menander around 300 BC, a piece about love and loyalty between married couples, misunderstandings and the abandoning of children, which amused readers in Egypt well into the 5th century AD. Socrates also read Homer, perhaps even accompanied by a volume with annotations which made it easier for him to understand the »old« language, as well as an as yet unidentified novel in which a woman must appear in court, and a book on history.

The newly-edited texts add productive information to current knowledge. Now we know for certain that Socrates' library included texts written by Homer, even though this was to be expected. In addition, we learn more about his social connections in the village, where he obviously helped to draw up petitions even though these weren't related to his own occupation as a tax collector.

The volume on the finds from Socrates's house (»P. Cairo Michi-

gan«) will be published in 2014 by De Gruyter. Students from the Ain Shams University in Cairo and several internationally recognized scholars collaborated in the publication. The volume is edited by C. RÖMER and M. ELMAGHRABI from the Alexandria University.

CORNELIA RÖMER

Writing hieroglyphs is child's play – Teaching modules for Egyptian archaeology

Egyptian temples, tombs, statues and papyri – ancient Egyptian hieroglyphs can be found on all of these objects. Can these signs only be read after years of intensive study? Not at all! With the teaching material »Script and Language of the Ancient Egyptians« published in 2013, pupils of German schools in Egypt can now learn the basics of hieroglyphics, hieratic and Coptic. Several words show that traces of the language of the pharaohs are still preserved in modern-day Egyptian Arabic.

Mathematical knowledge, written of course in hieroglyphs, was also important for the ancient Egyptians. Otherwise how would they have been able to manage the organization of large-scale building projects such as the pyramids of Giza? In the exercise book »Mathematics in ancient Egypt« activities of varying levels of difficulty ranging from writing hieroglyphic numbers to breaking down fractions into their component parts are compiled for use in lessons.

How did the ancient Egyptians orientate themselves in the desert? What did they know about deposits of stone and precious metals? The »Turin mining papyrus« depicts one of the oldest maps in the history of mankind. The worksheets dealing with this papyrus as part of the teaching material show that this map is not that much different from ones we use today.

Primary school pupils of the Deutsche Evangelische Oberschule in Cairo practice their excavation skills



Teachers who apply these modules can become acquainted with the topics discussed in the teaching material with the help of information texts. With texts for reading exercises, cut-out sheets for craftwork, worksheets and suggestions for trips, the contents can be integrated into regular school teaching in a flexible way. The Arabic translation of the material also provides pupils and teachers without German language skills the opportunity to benefit from the work of the DAI Cairo. The demand in Egypt has gone far beyond schools: the importance of pedagogic work continually increases in museums and at the ancient sites themselves.

The material has also entered the German school system. The work has been recognized by the Ministry for Culture and Education of the federal state of Saxony as it has signalled interest to incorporate the exercise books into its distribution database and by the Ministry of Education of the Sri Lanka National Commission for UNESCO, which has already placed an order for the books.

Thanks to a cooperation with the initiative »Schools: Partners of the Future« (PASCH-net) of the Federal Foreign Office, the teaching material is now available online in German (www.pasch-net.de): »Egyptian archaeology«. Further material, for example on working at excavation sites and Egyptian history as well as an Arabic version of all the material is planned for 2014.

JOHANNA SIGL

The history of the Cairo department between the conflicting priorities of German political interests from 1881 to 1966

The activity of reviewing Egyptology's history and its protagonists was, for quite some time, purely in order to demonstrate its achievements. The complex interplay be-

tween politics and science, which made scientific achievement possible in the first place but also had negative impacts on the academic field, remained hidden. An increasingly critical relationship between the public and archaeological achievements meanwhile requires a differentiated view of the events.

The Cairo department meets this challenge with a methodical examination and assessment of its archive holdings in the frame of the DAI's research cluster 5 with a focus on the history of science, and aims to place the institute's history and achievements in its historical context. The first volume published in September 2013 (S. Voss, *Die Geschichte der Abteilung Kairo I. 1881–1929, MKT 8,1*, Rahden/Westf. 2013) focuses on the period of the German Empire and the Weimar Republic. The emphasis of the current research project has been placed on the time period after the incorporation of the institute, which had initially been independent and essentially privately carried by LUDWIG BORCHARDT, into the DAI, i.e. from 1929 to 1966. Its contextualization requires a retrospective view of the Weimar period be-

cause while BORCHARDT's official files reflect the desire to hold on to lost imperial structures, the affiliation of the institution with the DAI and the inauguration of HERMANN JUNKER mark a reorientation of the institute that echoed the changing intellectual and political climate in Germany after the First World War: after the defeat, science and culture became the embodiment of German values and achievements. Archaeology was perceived as a tool to revive the international reputation of German science.

From 1920 onwards, international Egyptological publications record an increase in works focussing on prehistory led by Anglo-American archaeology in Egypt and the Near East. German scientific representatives in Cairo followed this line of research after the change of directors from BORCHARDT to JUNKER. Against the backdrop of ideological contentions of the interwar period, Egyptological content then became closely associated with the view of history propounded by the gradually ascending National Socialist movement.

SUSANNE VOSS-KERN

The British anthropologist of the Merimde excavation Douglas Derry excavating an Early Dynastic skeleton, Merimde-Benisalame 1931, Archive of the Austrian Academy of Sciences





A spectacle of nature at Tabyat el-Sheikh

They circle over the rocks of the cataract region in their hundreds, namely the white storks (Ciconia ciconia). Every year in spring and autumn, it is the most fabulous experience to observe these birds migrating over Aswan. Nowadays, the birds are seldom as numerous as they once were but the large flocks are still an impressive sight. The majestic birds spiral upwards almost soundlessly over the granite ridges of the first Nile cataract. »Some of the birds fly over the southern tip of the island at such a low height that if you stand at the highest point of the Kom, you can even see their eyes«, says D. Raue, who worked on the island for many years. With regard to the large amounts of stork bones found in the island's archaeological material, the archaeozoologists A. von den Driesch and J. Peters write in 2008 »It must have been extremely easy for the ancient Elephantines to simply shoot down these ›low-flyers‹ with a bow and arrow.« Further bone finds also show that the white stork did not make his journey alone all those millennia ago. They were also accompanied by black storks, yellow-billed storks and other migratory birds. However these species no longer fly as far south/north as they once did or are even threatened by extinction. Today, some of the white storks of a single flock have a very particular task: as a secret observer, they have the whole world in their luggage. Via satellite transmitter, the German Nature and Biodiversity Conservation Union records the exact route of various storks that nest in Germany.

You can read the diaries of these birds online and trace their annual migration path using a map. Or you can observe them directly and experience them as part of the rich bird-life at the first cataract at Aswan.

The Editorial Department of the DAI Cairo

Comprehensive excavations are an essential part of the individual disciplines related to the study of the ancient world, for example Egyptology, Classical Studies, Islamic Studies and European pre- and early history. Extensive fieldwork continually provides scientific research with new material which helps us to grasp historical events and the way of life of past cultures. Scientific services are also immensely important for the national and international scientific community. These services essentially include the maintenance of extensive libraries, archives and photographic libraries but also provide a framework for the high-quality publication of scientific research results in the specialized publications of the individual departments.



In order to make the results of year-long research work undertaken by individual scholars and whole teams in the field of ancient studies and archaeology accessible not only to the narrow circle of the scientific community but also to a wider public, thereby stimulating scientific debate, the publication of the material is vital.

With four series and one journal for Egyptology and the archaeology of Egypt in Antiquity, the DAI Cairo provides a long-established platform for the publication of excavation results as well as comprehensive studies on general topics related to cultural history, art history, religion and other subjects within and

The journals and series published by the DAI Cairo since 1930 are kept on the second floor of the institute's library

on the edge of the spectrum of Egyptological research.

The editorial team

The department's editorial team mainly consists of local German Egyptologists who are responsible for the editing of manuscripts that can be submitted in three languages, i.e. German, English and French. The editorial department is supervised by the scientific director, and, as a rule, supported by one or two research assistants on the basis of max. 4-year

History

The chequered history of the Cairo department spans more than a century of German research and publication activities in Egypt. During this period, numerous series and journals were brought into being by the department. Over the course of their existence, these publications have become well-established amongst German and international professional circles.

1907 After almost 30 years of unsuccessful attempts made by German Egyptologists to establish its own research institution in Cairo, the »Kaiserlich Deutsches Institut für Ägyptische Altertumskunde« was founded. It was placed under the direct control of the Federal Foreign Office. The first director of this institution was LUDWIG BORCHARDT (1863–1938), who had acted as scientific attaché to the consulate general since 1899. In these early days, the Cairo department did not operate its own editorial department. The results of the large-scale excavations carried out in Abusir and Abu Gurab from the winter of 1898/99 by the institute's director, BORCHARDT, were published in the founding year of the institute but initially in the »Wissenschaftlichen Veröffentlichungen der Deutschen Orientgesellschaft«. The institute's in-house series wasn't initiated until several years after the Second World War.

1929 In the summer of this year, the institute in Cairo was affiliated to the German Archaeological Institute, which at the time consisted of two departments in Rome and Athens. As BORCHARDT went into retirement at the end of the year, HERMANN JUNKER became the new director of the Cairo department.

1930 One year later, the first in-house publication organ was initiated, in which the most up-to-date excavation and research results of the department as well as international contributions on the archaeology and cultural history of Egypt from the formation of the first Egyptian state to the Christian and Islamic periods have been published up to the present day. Since their inception, the so called »Mitteilungen des Deutschen Instituts für Ägyptische Altertumskunde in Kairo« (MDIK) have developed to become one of the most renowned specialist journals in the field of Egyptian archaeology and is recognized by international experts.

1939 The year when the war broke out also marks a severe break in the history of the institute. In September of this year, contacts between Egypt and

Germany were officially ended and the department in Cairo was closed. Part of its property, including the library, was seized. The excavation activities of the department came to a complete standstill for almost two decades, as the state of war between Egypt and Germany was only officially revoked in May 1951. By contrast, the »Mitteilungen« were continued until 1944 when its publication eventually ground to a halt in the last year of the war.

1957 Twelve years after the war had ended, the institute in Cairo was officially reopened and work could be continued under the management of the new director, Hanns Stock.

Again after a break of twelve years, the 14th volume of the »Mitteilungen« was published by Harrassowitz in Wiesbaden. Also, a new publication series was initiated, namely the »Abhandlungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Institutes Abteilung Kairo« (ADAIK), which was divided into three sub-departments: Egyptological, Coptic and Islamic. 32 books dealing with the listed subject areas have appeared in this series until today. This first series designed for the publication of monographs was to be followed in the ensuing decades by others.

1970 The first edition of the »Archäologische Veröffentlichungen« (AV) was published under the director at the time, WERNER KAISER. Its focus, which is still the case today, lay on the publication of purely archaeological studies, primarily the results of the institute's own excavations. Since its inception, more than 80 volumes, which give a detailed overview of the department's archaeological work, have been published in this series.

1975 The first edition of the »Sonderschriften des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Kairo« (SDAIK) is published only five years later with a focus on diverse aspects of the ancient Egyptian culture rather than on archaeological work.

1990 As is the case with archaeological fieldwork, collaborations in the editorial sphere are also vital and beneficial. Therefore, the »Studien zur

Archäologie und Geschichte Altägyptens« (SAGA) founded in 1990 were issued in cooperation with the Institute for Egyptology at the University of Heidelberg. With this wide range of series, the institute has several publication organs at its disposal, in which not only its own work but also the results of international research projects are published.

2007 The year 2007 marked the centenary of the Cairo office and was celebrated with a wide range of festive events, presentations for international specialists and several publications portraying the institute's work. In the frame of the centenary, the commemorative publication »Meeting the Past – 100 Years in Egypt. German Archaeological

Institute Cairo 1907–2007« and a catalogue of the exhibition in the Egyptian Museum in Cairo as well as an illustrated book showing the extensive work undertaken by the institute in the Islamic historic district of Cairo were published. The richly illustrated book »A Future for the Past. Restorations in Islamic Cairo 1973–2004« gives an overview of the area's development and explains the work carried out on the Islamic monuments in historic Cairo, today a UNESCO world heritage site.

2011 The series »Menschen – Reisen – Forschung. Wissenschaftsgeschichte aus Ägypten« is founded by the scientific director, Daniel Polz.

contracts as well as several freelance partners when funding is available.

Publication series

The four publication series, which are currently issued by the DAI Cairo, are devoted to diverse aspects of the ancient Egyptian culture and its remains. The time frame covered by these publications spans 5000 years of human history from the Predynastic and Pharaonic eras to the Christian and Islamic ages. The publication programme of the department currently includes the following series:

- AV Archäologische Veröffentlichungen
- SDAIK Sonderschriften des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Kairo
- SAGA Studien zur Archäologie und Geschichte Altägyptens
- MRF Menschen – Reisen – Forschung. Wissenschaftsgeschichte aus Ägypten

These series can be divided into categories according to their content. While the »Archäologische Veröffentlichungen« are reserved for the publication of excavation results mainly, but not exclusively, of projects carried out by the Cairo department, the »Sonderschriften« and the »Studien« provide a platform for general topics and synthetic studies on ancient Egyptian culture and its contextualization in the cultural and political environment of the ancient Near East.

The Journal

The first publication organ of the department, the »Mitteilungen des Deutschen Instituts für Ägyptische Altertumskunde in Kairo« (MDIK) was founded in 1930 and has appeared almost annually since then. Even the outbreak of the Second World War in 1939, which disrupted all of the excavations of the DAI Cairo, did not hinder the department in issuing fur-

Since 2010, the style and the layout of the publications have been successively adapted to the new technical possibilities of modern printing. This also included a redesign of the bindings



ther volumes. It was only in the last years of the war that publication activities came to a standstill. These activities were then continued after a twelve year interval. Since 1956, the journal, renamed at the time as the »Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abteilung Kairo« (MDAIK), has been published every year, and in 2010, the 66th issue was also given a completely new design.

Modernization of the series and journals

Over the last four years, the established series and journals of the DAI Cairo were subjected to an extensive process of renewal. This process resulted not only in the discontinuation of unnecessary formats but above all in the redesign of the bindings for the MDAIK, the SDAIK and the AV as well as in the introduction of consistent colour illustrations integrated into the text. These changes were accompanied by the discontinuation of colour plates in the formats of the »Mitteilungen« and the »Sonderschriften«. In the future, the »Archäologische Veröffentlichungen« will also undergo similar changes – after the successful modernization of its cover – where colour illustrations and photos are completely incorporated into the text to facilitate the use of the books for the reader.

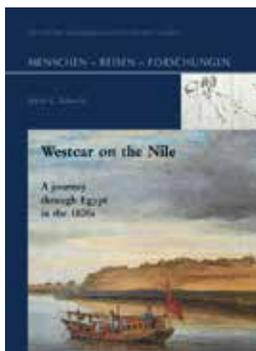
Establishing a new format

During the last years and decades, interest in archaeological and Egyptological research but particularly also in the history of the disci-

pline has risen, and in answer to this development, the DAI Cairo established a new series. This series is devoted to the publication of diaries, archive material and documents of early and late scholars and travellers to Egypt. The first volume of the series »Menschen – Reisen – Forschung« on the journey through Egypt undertaken by HENRY WESTCAR, who gave his name to the famous Papyrus Westcar, was published in the winter of 2011. Subsequent volumes deal with important material on the history of Egyptology from the archives of the DAI Cairo including an extensive study on the German excavation house in Luxor.

Future prospects

In the future, the editorial team of the Cairo department will be faced with new tasks. The modernization and the standardization of the existing publication formats is only a first step in this direction. In particular, fast-progressing technological developments in the field of on-line media open up new possibilities for the Cairo department. In light of the general rise in publications that are solely published on-line, the request for an open-access portal for the books and articles published by the DAI in addition to the usual printed media has been expressed with increasing frequency. Thus, the editorial department and its staff members are confronted by a whole range of new challenges, which they will have to meet in the future in order to fulfil modern requirements of the digital era without lowering proven standards of quality.



The cover of the first edition of the series on the Egyptian history of science (published since 2011) Menschen – Reisen – Forschung. Wissenschaftsgeschichte aus Ägypten: »Westcar on the Nile« by Heike C. Schmidt

AUTHORS

DANIEL POLZ has directed the project in the necropolis of Dra Abu el-Naga (Western Thebes) since 1991. Between 1993 and 1998 he was Assistant and Associate Professor at the UCLA, and since his habilitation in 2006, is a private lecturer in Munich. He became the Second Director of the DAI Cairo in 1999.

ISA BÖHME studied Egyptology, Classical Archaeology and ancient Near Eastern studies in Leipzig. Since 2005, she has worked in the New Kingdom necropolis in Thebes and has been active as the editorial assistant for the DAI Cairo since the autumn of 2010.

TELL! me about your research

Cairo is an international centre of scientific exchange. As the location of diverse universities, scientific institutions and foreign representatives of worldwide operating research institutions, the city occupies a key position in the North African and eastern Mediterranean region. In the numerous fieldwork and research projects that are supported by the aforementioned institutions in the region, many young scholars play a decisive role. In order to facilitate their introduction into the local, English-speaking scientific community, a new lecture series was initiated at the DAI Cairo in 2013:

The Young Researchers' Lecture Series of the German Archaeological Institute Cairo



This platform provides the participants with the opportunity to present their independent research results to a wide public within the frame of a well-established scientific institution in Cairo and to enter the scientific debate with other scholars who are active in the region. The lecture series aims to create a relaxed atmosphere, in which inhibitions of speaking in public are reduced and open discussion is encouraged. The range of topics covered by the lecture series is intentionally wide with lectures ranging from archaeological fieldwork projects and questions on aspects of cultural studies to contributions from the fields of anthropology, archaeometry, architectural history, epigraphy, geography, linguistics and the history of the Egyptological discipline. In geographical terms, the focus not only lies on the Egyptian core area but also on the Sudan, the eastern Sahara as well as the Levant and the Near East. Chronologically, the

lectures are not limited to a certain time period: different thematic focal points from the prehistoric age to the modern and postmodern era can be presented to the public and discussed.

This lecture series is primarily aimed at young graduates (Magister/M.A.), doctoral students and colleagues who have recently completed their PhD project. An informal application to participate in the lecture series can be submitted at any time, and should include the title of the lecture and a short (½ A4-page) abstract. Applications should be sent to the following address: tell.cairo@dainst.de.

Lectures in the frame of the TELL!-series 2013

- 31.3. SANDRA MÜLLER: Investigations Concerning the Chronology of the Transfer of Ideas and Technologies
- 11.4. LOUISE BERTINI: Changes in Suid Husbandry Practices Throughout Dynastic Egypt Using Linear Enamel Hypoplasia (LEH)
- 30.5. CLAIRE MALLESON: Archaeobotanical Investigations in the

Delta – Pitfalls and Potentials of Cross-site Comparisons

- 2.6. EMAN SHOKRI HESHAM: Social Impact on Historic Sites – Towards an Approach to Emphasize the Social and Economic Value of the Local Inhabitants in Conservation Sites
- 14.12. Christmas Event with MANUELA LEHMANN: Off the Beaten Paths – Tell el-Daba Beyond the Hyksos; AHMED M. MEKAWY OUDA: Did Werethekau ‚Great of Magic‘ Have a Cult? A Debate Between the Scholars and the Sources und MARIAM SALAH MAREI, Vernacular and Ancient Egyptian Mudbrick Architecture. Continuities, Disruption and Semiological Relations

Joint Master Study Course: Heritage Conservation and Site Management

In the frame of the Transformation Partnership Programme financed by the Federal Foreign Office, the German Archaeological Institute (DAI) together with the

1 Participants of the excursion to Dahshur in the frame of the joint master study course »Heritage Conservation and Site Management«



Helwan University and the Brandenburg University of Technology Cottbus-Senftenberg (BTU) conceptualised the English-language MA-study course »Heritage Conservation and Site Management«. The Transformation Partnership Programme enables German universities to cooperate with partners in Egypt and Tunisia, and to make a contribution to the modernization of education and training, to increase the chances of job opportunities for the graduates, and to aid the development of democratic structures in the partner countries Egypt and Tunisia.

The MA-study course includes study periods in both Egypt and Germany, and combines, for the very first time, the classical subject of archaeology with multi-disciplinary approaches for the modern management of cultural sites that are important for tourism. Experts from the DAI Cairo and the BTU Cottbus will contribute their individual expertise in this innovative study course, which has been generously sponsored by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD). Seminars and excursions constitute a major part of the study course and, with the help of the scientific colleagues

at the DAI Cairo, will provide an in-depth insight into the ancient sites of Egypt and into the current state of research. Therefore, an excursion for first semester students took place on the 13th of November to the pyramids of Dahshur, led by the first director of the DAI Cairo, Prof. Dr. STEPHAN SEIDLMEYER.

At the opening ceremony of the study course, a high-profile international symposium with the title »Heritage Tourism: Prospects and Challenges« took place between the 8th and the 11th of December in Luxor. 42 speakers from 12 countries including the Minister of Tourism, HISHAM ZAAZOU, the Minister of Antiquities, Prof. Dr. MOHAMMED IBRAHIM ALI, the President of the Helwan University, Prof. YASSER SAKR, the German Ambassador, MICHAEL BOCK, the President of the DAI, Prof. FRIEDRIKE FLESS, and the Secretary General of the DAAD, Dr. DOROTHEA RÜLAND, spoke about the inextricable link between cultural heritage and tourism. The results of the symposium will be published in the conference proceedings in 2014.

The scholarship programme of the DAI Cairo

and the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)

In 2013, the DAI Cairo and the DAAD invited applications for several scholarships that enable Egyptian scholars and archaeologists to visit a German university for several weeks and to undertake research there on a small project.

The scholarship holders of 2012 finalized their scholarship by holding a small workshop on the 17th of February on the premises of the DAI Cairo where they presented their experiences and the results of their stay in Germany.

In the frame of the 2013 scholarship programme, another event took place with the title »How to present scientific material«. The participants were also scholarship holders, who had been in Germany in the spring of 2013 and the year before with research or travel scholarships from the Transformation Partnership Programme. This event primarily focussed on the presentation of the scientific results and research activities of the scholarship holders.

❷ Ulrike Fauerbach (right) during the presentation of the Aegaron project. Willeke Wendrich of the UCLA and her team (left-hand side) connected live via the internet ❸ The Second Director, Daniel Polz, during his lecture on the 4th of June 2013



Scientific Events

In the frame of the international conference »Epigraphy Through Five Millennia: The Area of Aswan« organized by the DAI Cairo on the 12th and 13th of March, 18 speakers presented their research results and gave reports about their work on current projects in the area of the First Cataract at Aswan.

Furthermore, an international symposium on the subject of »Visualising the Archaeological Record, Architecture – Inscriptions – Landscape« took place at the DAI Cairo on the 20th of May. This event was combined with the official release of the website of the German-American cooperation project Aegaron (Ancient Egyptian Architecture Online) together with the plans developed by the project's international team members. The American cooperation partners from the UCLA, Prof. Dr. WILLEKE WENDRICH and her team members took part in the event via live video transmission.

On the 5th/6th of June, all directors of scientific projects carried out by the DAI Cairo came together in the frame of the annual project days

to present and discuss their progress reports in the field and their research results.

The project »School« funded by the Transformation Partnership Programme of the Federal Foreign Office, with the aim of developing teaching material for the study of ancient Egypt, held an archaeological workshop for the pupils and teachers of the Deutsche Evangelische Oberschule (DEO) in Cairo on the 17th of June.

On the 26th of June, the international participants of an 11-day summer school on the subject of »A visible City: The Tangible and Intangible Heritage of Downtown Cairo« presented their results on the DAI Cairo premises. Students of architecture from the German University and other universities in Cairo as well as the University of Stuttgart explored Downtown Cairo for just under two weeks. They examined the history and architectural heritage of the city's historic district of Ismailia. The students produced schematic plans of various buildings or selected storeys, and carried out interviews with the residents of the relevant buildings in order to

learn more about the history of the buildings. The summer school was financed by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD).

A particularly joyful event took place on the 20th of November. RALPH BODENSTEIN was honoured by the German Science Centre Cairo (DWZ) for his extraordinary commitment to German-Egyptian cooperation in the field of science and innovation.

Lepsius Day 2013

The events of the DAI Cairo came to a close on the 17th of December with the annually held, so-called Lepsius Day. On this day, the DAI Cairo honours CARL RICHARD LEPSIUS, one of the most exceptional representatives of Egyptology in its early stages.

Every year, this day is marked with a ceremonial address, which was held this year by KRZYSZTOF M. CIAŁOWICZ who spoke about his work in Tell el-Farkha. This was preceded by a eulogy to the former first director of the DAI Cairo, WERNER KAISER, who died in the summer of 2013.

In addition, three new correspondent members of the DAI were an-

Lepsius Day 2013: ❶ The new members Maged Nesm and Hisham el-Leithy and ❷ Christiana Köhler ❸ Krzysztof M. Ciałowicz during the ceremonial address ❹ The former First Director of the DAI Cairo, Günther Dreyer, together with the current First Director, Stephan Seidlmayer



nounced during the evening: Prof. Dr. CHRISTIANA KÖHLER from the University of Vienna, Prof. MAGED NESM, Vice President of the Helwan University, and Dr. HISHAM EL-LEITHY, Director of the editorial department of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities.

Further lectures

- 30.4. JESSICA KRISTIONAT: The Role of Women in Early Manichaeanism
- 23.4. KATHARINA RIEGER: All Quiet on the Western Front? Approaches to an Unknown Roman Fort in Northwestern Egypt
- 4.6 DANIEL POLZ: Dra' Abu el-Naga: Origins and development of a complex necropolis in Western Thebes
- 1.10. SIBYLL EMERIT (IFAÖ): A Musical Discovery: The Harps from Dra' Abu el-Naga

Restoration of the excavation house on Elephantine, Aswan

The excavation house of the DAI lies on an island in the Nile opposite the modern city of Aswan, to the west of the settlement of Elephantine in the immediate vicinity of the Nubian village. On a surface area measuring 1250 square metres it offers accommodation space for ca. 15 researchers during ongoing excavation.

The building, which was constructed at the beginning of the 1970s, incorporates traditional Nu-

bian building forms and techniques that have been adapted for use as a living and working space for an international team of scientists. Although the excavation house is not officially a listed building, it still constitutes an example of a local and now historic building tradition and is, in its current state, therefore worthy of preservation and protection.

The spatial structure of the one-storey building is arranged around two functionally different courtyards that are joined together by a corridor. The first courtyard is surrounded by working spaces and the second courtyard to the rear gives access to the living spaces. The communal spaces, bathrooms and the kitchen are also arranged along the corridor.

Mud bricks were used to construct the walls, which were built on a foundation of limestone rubble. In the kitchen and the bathrooms, the raised mud-brick walls were lined with a layer of burnt bricks. The roofs were also made of mud bricks in the form of vaults and domes. All wall surfaces were plastered and then covered with a white coat of paint made of limestone.

After intensive usage over a period of 40 years and despite repeated repairs, the building shows extensive damage. The building not only suffers from surface damage such as loose plaster and disintegrating paint but also from structural damage of the walls and roofs. Particularly, cracks observed in the vault and dome constructions are presumably the result of subsidence. In an initial construction phase,

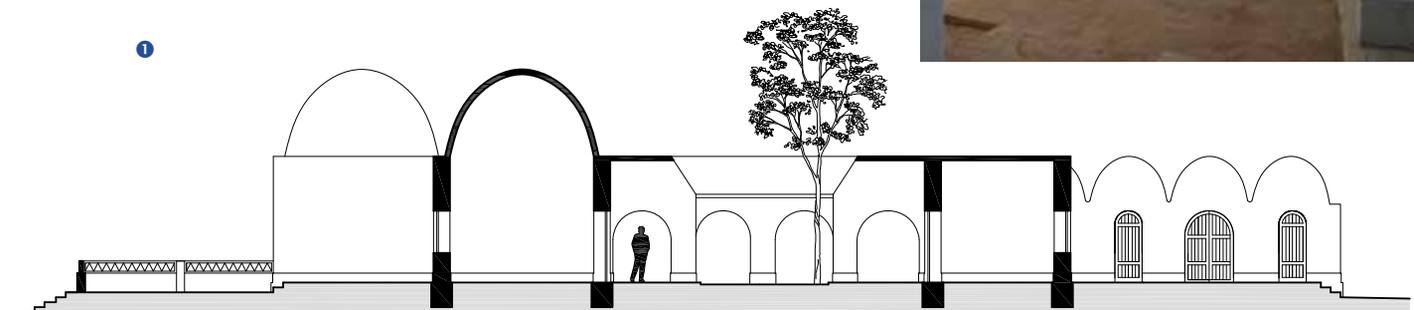
restoration of the living spaces was completed in 2013. This work not only involved the redesign and improvement of the living and sanitary areas, the restoration of areas showing any damage as well as general maintenance but also the conservation and restoration of the arrangement and fabric of the rooms, which have been constantly changed over time with renovations and installed fittings. In a second construction phase, the first inner courtyard will be restored in future.



1 Section of the excavation house on Elephantine (without scale)

2 View over the excavation house (from the north) 3 Repair of the cracks in the walls: uncovered cracks in the vault construction are grouted with lime mortar 4 View into the second courtyard after maintenance was completed

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Mitteilungen des Deutschen Archäologischen Instituts Abt. Kairo, Bd. 67 (2011)



For over 80 years, the annually published »Mitteilungen« of the Cairo department provide an international platform for contributions on archaeology as well as on the cultural and social history of Egypt. The topics span a time frame that ranges

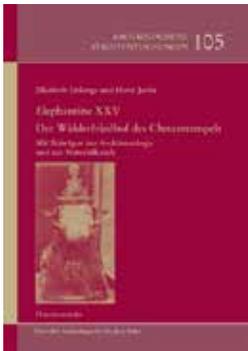
from the predynastic period to the Christian and Islamic eras.

In addition to the focus on archaeological topics and the publication of the latest exca-

vation results of international ventures, topics related to cultural and art history as well as current questions in Egyptological research are also discussed. Moreover, extensive and richly-illustrated reports on the current excavations and projects of the Cairo department are regularly published in two- to three-year intervals.

207 pages, 155 figures, ISBN 978-3-11-023643-9, Verlag Walter de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston 2013, 84,00 €

ELISABETH DELANGE/HORST JARITZ, *Elephantine XXV. Der Widderfriedhof des Chnumtempels, AV 105*



Elephantine XXV focuses on the cemetery of sacred rams adjacent to the temple of Khnum. The book is dedicated to the archaeological exploration of the site. It provides an in-depth insight into the investigation of the cemetery undertaken by CHARLES

CLERMONT-GANNEAU (together with JEAN CLÉDAT) between 1906 and 1991 in the frame of his papyrus excavation as well as an extensive overview of the re-investigations carried out by the Swiss Institute for Egyptian Architectural History and Archaeology (1954, 1983–1985, 1991–2007 in the frame of a collaboration with the German Archaeological Institute that exists since 1968). The publication also presents the results of archaeozoological examinations and material studies of the finds.

The diaries and photos left by CLERMONT-GANNEAU and CLÉDAT as well as several papers prepared by them for publication provide us with

a clear picture of the site's original state. Together with several objects, these documents constitute an important source for the reconstruction of the cemetery's structural remains as well as its architectural history and interpretation. The documentation of the finds together with the mummies of the sacred rams discovered in stone sarcophagi on site show the range of the cemetery's contents. A study of the decoration preserved on the mummies gives an indication of the associated cult. The pottery found in the structural remains and in the context of the burials together with a determination of the age of the buried rams, provides data for the architectural construction and usage of the site as well as its occupation (mid 2nd cent. BC – mid 3rd cent. AD). The use of the area as a cemetery for small animals (late Roman period) and the development of an overlying settlement (early Christian period) attest to the end of the cemetery for sacred rams.

352 pages, 157 figures, 96 plates, ISBN 978-3-447-06257-2, Harrassowitz Verlag, Wiesbaden 2013, 168,00 €

DIETRICH RAUE/STEPHAN J. SEIDLMEYER/PHILIPP SPEISER, *The First Cataract of the Nile. One Region - Diverse Perspectives*, SDAIK 36



In many ways, the First Nile Cataract represents an unusually rich landscape for the investigation of different periods and cultures. Against the backdrop of connecting as well as dividing natural factors, cultural transition takes place and can be traced

over a time period of more than 5000 years. The contributions of the present volume illustrate this process from different perspectives and with methods from varying disciplines. Beginning with the recent results on the history of immigration into the Nile valley, sociological approaches, archaeological reports from current excavations and philological studies on

groups of people and time periods into the 15th century are described.

In this way, the contributions give an impression of the possibilities offered by this region for modern, temporally-overarching cultural history. They are based on the proceedings of an international symposium held in Berlin in September 2007 and have been updated for the present publication.

296 Seiten, 200 Abbildungen, ISBN 978-3-11-031694-0, Verlag Walter de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston 2013, 109,95 €

THOMAS BECKH, »Zeitzeugen aus Ton«. *Die Gebrauchskeramik der Klosteranlage Deir el-Bakhît in Theben West (Oberägypten)*, SDAIK 37



This volume presents the pottery corpus of the Coptic monastery Deir el-Bakhît in Western Thebes, Upper Egypt. The study examines a previously poorly documented material group, which, however, is essential for the comprehension of the early

Middle Age period in Egypt, and critically reflects former bases for research. The study not only focuses on the chronological and material aspects of pottery but pursues a more comprehensive approach: the on-site production of pottery within the monastery and the material provision of the complex itself, the problem of assigning ceramic objects with a specific func-

tion, the role of the monastery as a regional economic factor as well as the recycling process in the monastery in light of ceramic waste products are exceptional features not only for Egypt. Selected textual sources complement the material corpus, and abstract values such as piety and asceticism become tangible in the archaeological material. The present study exploits the full potential of the cultural product »pottery«, and paints a vivid picture of the traditions and customs of an early Middle Age monastic community in Egypt.

257 Seiten, 36 Abbildungen, ISBN 978-3-11-031707-7, Verlag Walter de Gruyter, Berlin/Boston 2013, 109,95 €

In Memory of Werner Kaiser

The last year of the German Archaeological Institute and particularly the Cairo department has been shadowed by the passing of Werner Kaiser.

His death was unexpected and inconceivable. Unexpected, as WERNER KAISER tended to keep the troubles that he was faced with to himself; unexpected and inconceivable because as a person, he always stayed true to himself – and that means a person utterly rooted in the present and not in the past. From the very start of his career, WERNER KAISER was both at the front line of his time as well as ahead of his time, and he inspired and shaped further development to such an extent that the future did not leave him behind but filled his plans to the full.

That's worthwhile in science. WERNER KAISER dedicated himself to the early history of Egypt and demonstrated the inextricable link between prehistoric archaeology and Egyptology in terms of methods and questions; this approach enabled him to recognize the major significance of individual sites (Hierakonpolis...), to define fields of work (the archaeology of the Nile Delta...), that today define the areas studied in relation to early Egypt. The subjects that mark WERNER KAISER'S work, for example chronology, the relationship between Upper Egypt and the Delta, the social development of the early elites and kingship, are topics that still move scientific debate.

WERNER KAISER'S work similarly defines the institute in Cairo to the present day. WERNER KAISER gave the institute the form, which still constitutes its wealth and objectives. He had the good sense to seize the opportunity during the expansive 1970s, filling the possibilities on offer with content.

The institute's agenda, which considers all periods of the ancient Egyptian culture, the range of activities including research, restoration, site management, public relations work but above all the openness of the insti-



Werner Kaiser (1926–2013)

tute towards scientific institutions in Germany, Egypt and towards the circle of international colleagues are all components of an architecture of coherency and integrity to which nothing must be added or revised. This is the logic which has made the department into a central institution of German Egyptology, archaeology and cultural work in Egypt.

The profile of the institute was also decisively shaped by JUTTA KAISER. Nobody who knows or has known the institute can remember WERNER KAISER without thinking of his wife with the same admiration and gratitude. They dealt with every task working together hand in hand.

Whoever moved into the wrong room in the guest floor of the institute or whoever experienced the cleaning frenzy in the Elephantine excavation house on the day before she arrived, knows how she, with strictness and humour, held the ever-growing framework of the institute together. And whoever needed help, discovered that she could be relied upon one thousand percent. Without her, nothing would have worked.

WERNER KAISER was an exceptional individual in the scientific field, not only because of his creativity, energy and power of judgement, but mainly because he didn't work alone and for himself. WERNER KAISER made a whole generation of scientific research possible. He understood the principle of working through the institute to such an extent that the past and present achievements of the institute are predominantly due to his efforts and work.

Without WERNER KAISER, the publication volumes would not occupy whole rows of library shelves, without him, the institute would not have the charisma and status that it has today, without him, a whole generation of scholars, who shaped the work in Egypt according to his line of work, would fail to exist.

It should be remembered that this was not particularly easy for him and forced him to abandon his former style of work. I know from conversations with him that WERNER KAISER was affected by this and that he would have enjoyed working for and by himself at a lower level of individual research.

However, I also know from the – naturally ironic – encouragement he gave me during my own considerations of working for the institute in Cairo, that he was ultimately satisfied with his position. He himself was aware that stepping back from himself was in fact stepping up to a higher level of work. On this higher level, the wealth and potential of his character and person evolved to the full so that he viewed other tasks which he could have realized perhaps with a certain melancholy but not with sadness.

We owe WERNER KAISER a great debt of gratitude due to the way in which he worked through and for the institute as well as through and for others. Gratitude for inspiration and encouragement, gratitude for the possibility to work and to write books, gratitude for being able to lead our lives in scientific research and in Egypt, gratitude for that which gives our professional lives a sense of meaning.

This great debt of gratitude that I myself, as well as many of my colleagues and the insti-



① Werner Kaiser together with his wife Jutta in Elephantine (1998) ② Werner Kaiser together with Ulrich Hartung, excursion to Buto during the centenary celebration of the Cairo department

tute, carry and have carried over the past is not always easy to bear. For quite some time, I was disconcerted – and I am probably not alone in this respect – by the fact that I was never able to personally give my thanks to WERNER KAISER. He would always reject words with sarcasm anyway so what could we have done for him? We can only strive to offer that which we received from WERNER KAISER namely support, generosity, inspiration and encouragement to other, younger colleagues and naturally to his »inshtitute«.

STEPHAN SEIDLMEYER

Cover:

Figurines of Osiris made of unburned clay, found during the excavations at Abydos