

ORIENTAL INSTITUTE NUBIAN EXPEDITION (OINE) PUBLICATION PROJECT

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Volume 14, *The Second Cataract Fortress of Dorginarti*, has been edited and is undergoing final review and formatting in the Publications Office. Volume 12, *Cerre Matto, the Churches, Houses, Workshops, and Cemetery* is now being edited, while Volume 13, *Cerre Matto, the Christian Period Pottery, Small Objects, Glass, and Texts*, and Volume 16, *Beads from Excavations at Qustul, Ballana, Adindan, Serra East, and Dorginarti Part 1: A-Group, Post A-Group, C-Group, N-Type, P-Type, Pan Grave, Kerma, Middle Kingdom, and New Kingdom Beads* has been submitted and passed on to the Publications Committee. Preparations for the Dorginarti-Serra East database are underway, with much of the registered pottery photographed for upload into a FileMaker Pro database. The construction of the 3-D model for Dorginarti is also nearing completion, expected by September 2018 (figs. 1–2). At this point we turn attention to other major efforts.



ABOVE: Preliminary reconstruction of the Levels III-IV fortress, looking northwest towards the west bank of the Nile.

LEFT: Preliminary reconstruction of the interior buildings by the West Gate, looking southwest.

VOLUME 16. BEADS FROM EXCAVATIONS AT QUSTUL, BALLANA, ADINDAN, SERRA EAST, AND DORGINARTI PART 1

The main objective of this publication project, begun in 2012, was the creation of an illustrated catalog of Lower Nubian beads and pendants from past OINE excavations in order to study the history of beads in Northeast Africa. Beads contribute to the study of trade networks in Northeast Africa, with many of them showing links not only to the Mediterranean but also to Southeast Asia.

The collection was first divided chronologically into the main periods of Nubian archaeology, and then next according to cultural units, beginning with the A-Group and ending with modern times. The first volume, just submitted, includes almost 360 numbered bead and pendant objects from Early Nubian (fig. 3), Middle Nubian (figs. 4 and 5) and New Kingdom (fig. 6) sites. In each unit the results of bead studies are presented within their cultural background. A detailed chronology is provided for the variety of beads, beadwork types are discussed, and both an anthropological overview and materials analysis are given along with references to parallels known from literature and museum studies. An illustrated catalog is provided at the end of each cultural unit. The first volume contains some features of special interest. For example, evidence exists that the stones used for beads were not only obtained from places within Nubia, but that they were processed, heat treated, and made into beads at Ballana directly across the river from Qustul, the site of the A-Group's royal cemetery. So Nubia was a source of high-quality bead manufacturing in the A-Group, a reversal of its old assumed role as a mere source of raw material but not the final production of beads.



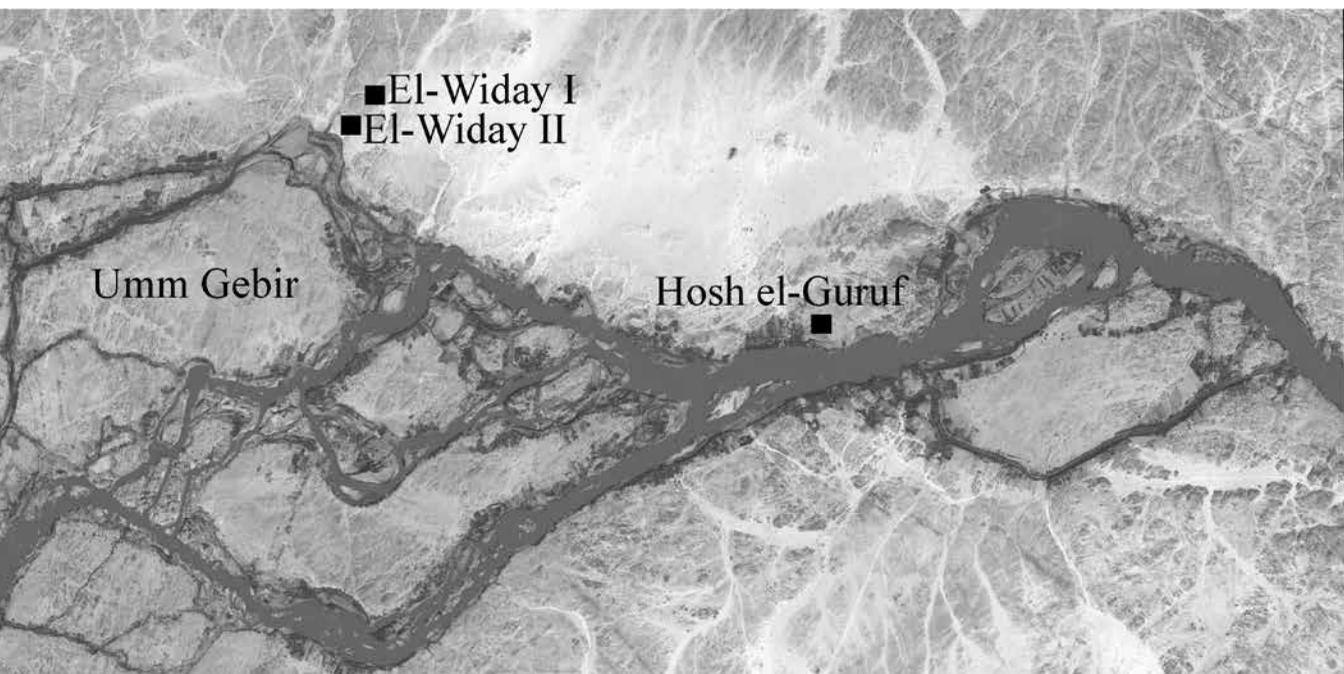
A second volume covering the beads and pendants of the Napatan, Meroitic, post-Meroitic, Christian, Islamic, and modern periods is in process, and will include the results of the laboratory analyses of the glass beads. In fall 2017, a sample of 114 beads and pendants were selected for laboratory analysis. The results of the chemical composition analysis, run by Laure Dussubieux of the Elemental Analysis Facility at Chicago's Field Museum, should confirm the South Asian origin of some of the glass beads from post-Meroitic assemblages, that is, from the Blemmyan and Nobadian remains.

THE ORIENTAL INSTITUTE IN THE FOURTH CATARACT

In 2007 and 2008 the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition excavated and surveyed in the region of the Nile's Fourth Cataract, an area upstream from the almost-finished Merawi Dam and which has since been covered by the reservoir's water. While numerous expeditions participated in the salvage efforts, almost no final reports have been completed and published to date. The Oriental Institute's participation in this project, directed by Geoff Emberling and Bruce Williams, included the only substantial cemetery from the period 1850–1550 BCE (Old Kush or Kerma Period) to be completely

BELOW: Figures 3–6 (from far left to right). Carnelian and garnet beads and pendants from Late A-Group royal tomb L17 at Qustul, OIM E23663A-D; Electrum ibis amulet from C-Group tomb B47 at Serra East, OIM E19693; Nacre wristlet plaques, ostrich eggshell and faience beads from Pan-Grave tomb C2 at Serra East, OIM E24426; Carnelian and glass scarabs from post-Amarna dated grave R94 at Qustul, OIM E23520A, B.





ABOVE: Figure 7. Aerial view of the Fourth Cataract Oriental Institute concession.

excavated, a unique gold-processing center dating to the same period and reused at later times, and an unusual cemetery contemporary with Egypt's New Kingdom, among other sites (fig. 7).¹

The material from the 2007 and 2008 excavations has been loaned to the Oriental Institute by the Sudan's National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums for a ten-year period and for the purpose of publication,² and thus is available for laboratory analysis by Emberling, Williams, Heidorn, Aaron de Souza, Jim Harrell, and Carol Meyer. De Souza visited the museum for research in early 2018, and part of his time was spent studying the Pan-Grave related material from Al-Widay (figs. 8–9), Hosh el Guruf, and Umm Gebir. This research activity was supported by a substantial reorganization of the excavation records. These had all been digitized, but the sources, categories, and types of documentation, records, registers, photographs, drawings, had not been organized by category, which is now done.

One grant proposal has already been submitted in hopes of the funding needed for the detailed analysis of the archaeological material, photography, and the drawing of plans, maps, and artifacts, with the search for other sources of funding ongoing at the present time.

VOLUME 11. THE MIDDLE KINGDOM FORTRESS AT SERRA EAST "REPELLING THE MEDJAY," SECOND INTERMEDIATE PERIOD AND NEW KINGDOM REMAINS

Kathryn Bandy and Susan Penacho have been working on a complete re-analysis of seal impressions from the fortress, its most revealing set of documents. With new drawings and photographs, the chapter will show more clearly not just the seals and their designs, but their uses.

During his visit to study Pan Grave-related pottery from the Fourth Cataract excavations, Aaron de Souza also studied related material from quarries and the fortress at Serra East, a study aimed at detailing relations with the appearance of this culture in Egypt, where he has been excavating.

CONCLUSION

Many years ago, the series Harvard African Studies started each volume with the quote from Pliny the Younger: “Quid novi ex Africa?” Everywhere the Oriental Institute has worked, there have been surprises. Sometimes they have been great works of art, such as the amazing New Kingdom caryatid mirror on display in the Nubia Gallery. Sometimes they have been major texts, such as the Coptic book with two apocrypha, including a Stauros Text, from the monastery at Qasr el-Wizz, or the longest text in Old Nubian from Serra East. At other times we find the one major coherent site in all of Nubia that illuminates the first centuries of the first millennium BCE. OINE 2 gave us the first good look at a material culture for the much mythologized and even feared Blemmyes. And, of course, Qustul’s early royal cemetery rocked the relations of Nubia and Egypt to their foundations. Now, the first volume on beads will rock them some more.

In past publications, we have hinted at changes in our perceptions of northeast Africa that will arise from the Oriental Institute work on the Fourth Cataract archaeological materials. We are now sure, more than ever, that these changes are of fundamental importance to the study of history and culture in this region. Read more about it next year.



ABOVE: Figure 8. Pan-Grave type bowl from Cemetery al-Widay I of the Old Kush II/Middle Kerma Period. RIGHT: Scarab from Cemetery al-Widay I from a tomb of the Old Kush II Period. It originally belonged to an Egyptian officer of the Thirteenth Dynasty, *šmsw n rmn-tp Nb-Swmmw*, Officer or captain of the First Battalion, Neb-Sumenu (a local form of Sobek in Upper Egypt).



NOTES

¹ A preliminary description of the Oriental Institute's work at the Fourth Cataract is presented in Emberling and Williams 2010. Emberling, Williams, Ingvolstad and James 2014, Meyer 2010, and Harrell 2010.

² Three boxes of samples not included were requested by Williams during a stay in Khartoum this year, and after obtaining permission to export, have now been arranged for shipment to the Oriental Institute.
