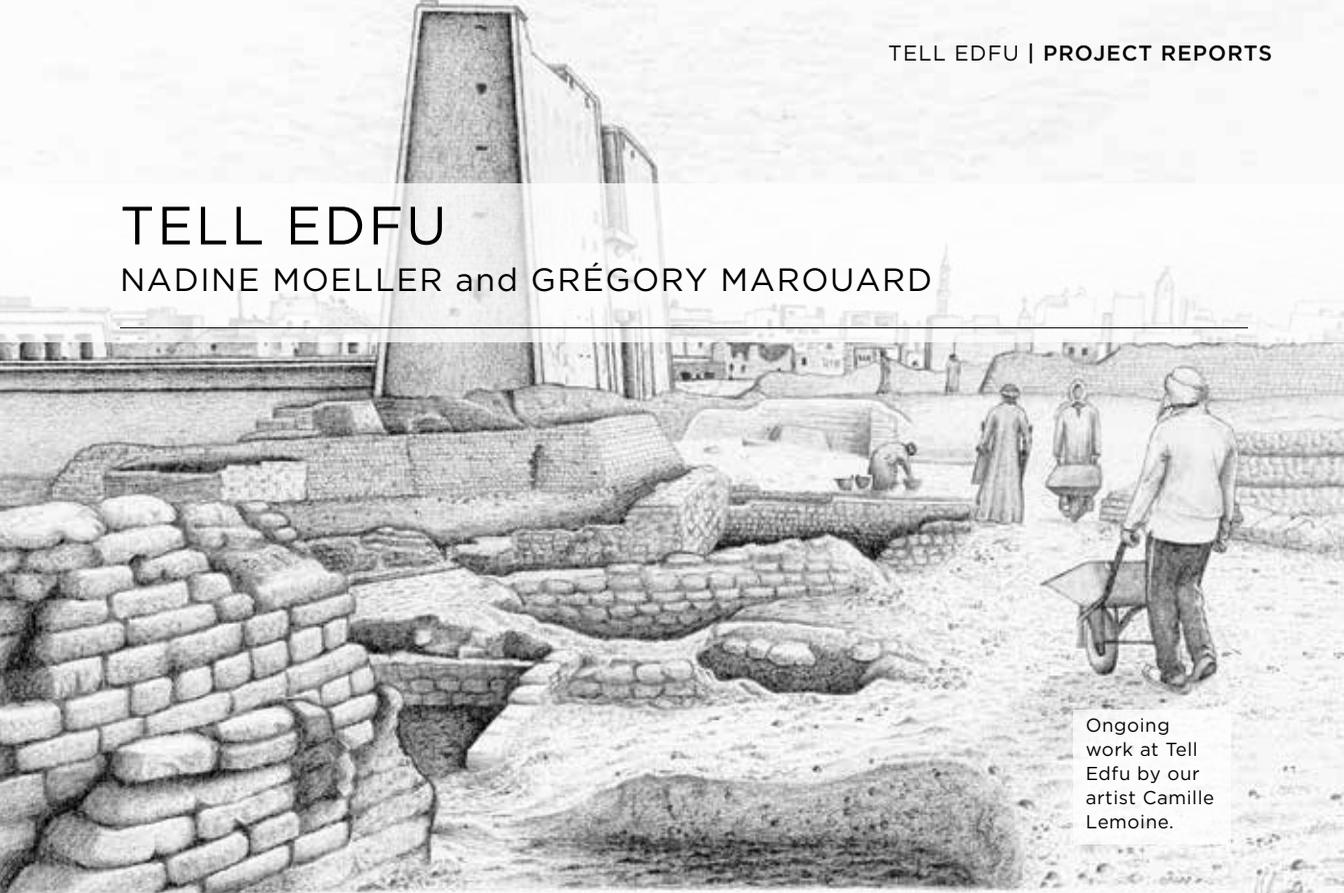


TELL EDFU

NADINE MOELLER and GRÉGORIE MAROUARD



Ongoing work at Tell Edfu by our artist Camille Lemoine.

The ancient city of Edfu is situated on the West Bank of the Nile valley, halfway between Aswan and Luxor (fig. 1). In ancient times, Edfu was the capital of the 2nd Upper Egyptian nome and it formed an important regional center in the Upper Egypt from the middle of the third millennium BCE until the late Byzantine period.

Since 2014, one of the main research objectives of our archaeological fieldwork at Tell Edfu has been to identify the earliest traces for settlement activity and to investigate the Old Kingdom occupation which lies deeply under the actual preserved tell site. In the continuity of previous seasons, we mainly focused this year on the excavation of Zone 2, which is situated to the west of the pylon of the Ptolemaic temple (fig. 2) and which contains the earliest settlement remains at Edfu so far discovered, dating to the late Fifth Dynasty and the reign of king Djedkare Isesi (ca. 2450 BCE). Another operation was conducted on the top of the tell, on the north side of previously excavated Zone 1. It mainly consisted in cleaning and preparation operations for a new early New Kingdom settlement excavation which will be engaged next fall 2018.

The 2017 season at Tell Edfu started on November 4 and finished on December 10. The project has been conducted by Nadine Moeller (director) and Gregory Marouard (co-director). This year team members were Katarina Arias Kytnarová, PhD (Old Kingdom pottery specialist, Czech Institute of Egyptology, Charles University, Prague), Aaron de Souza, PhD (Nubian pottery, Macquarie University, Sydney), Claire Newton, PhD (Archaeobotanist, Université du Québec à Rimouski), Camille Lemoine (small finds drawings), Oren Siegel (archaeologist, University of Chicago/NELC), Emilie Sarrazin (archaeologist, University of Chicago/NELC) and Sasha Rohret (archaeozoologist, University of Chicago/NELC).

The local inspectorate of the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities (MoA) was represented this season by Mrs. Madonna Nashaat Habib Girgis and Mrs. Amna Yussef Ali Hassan.



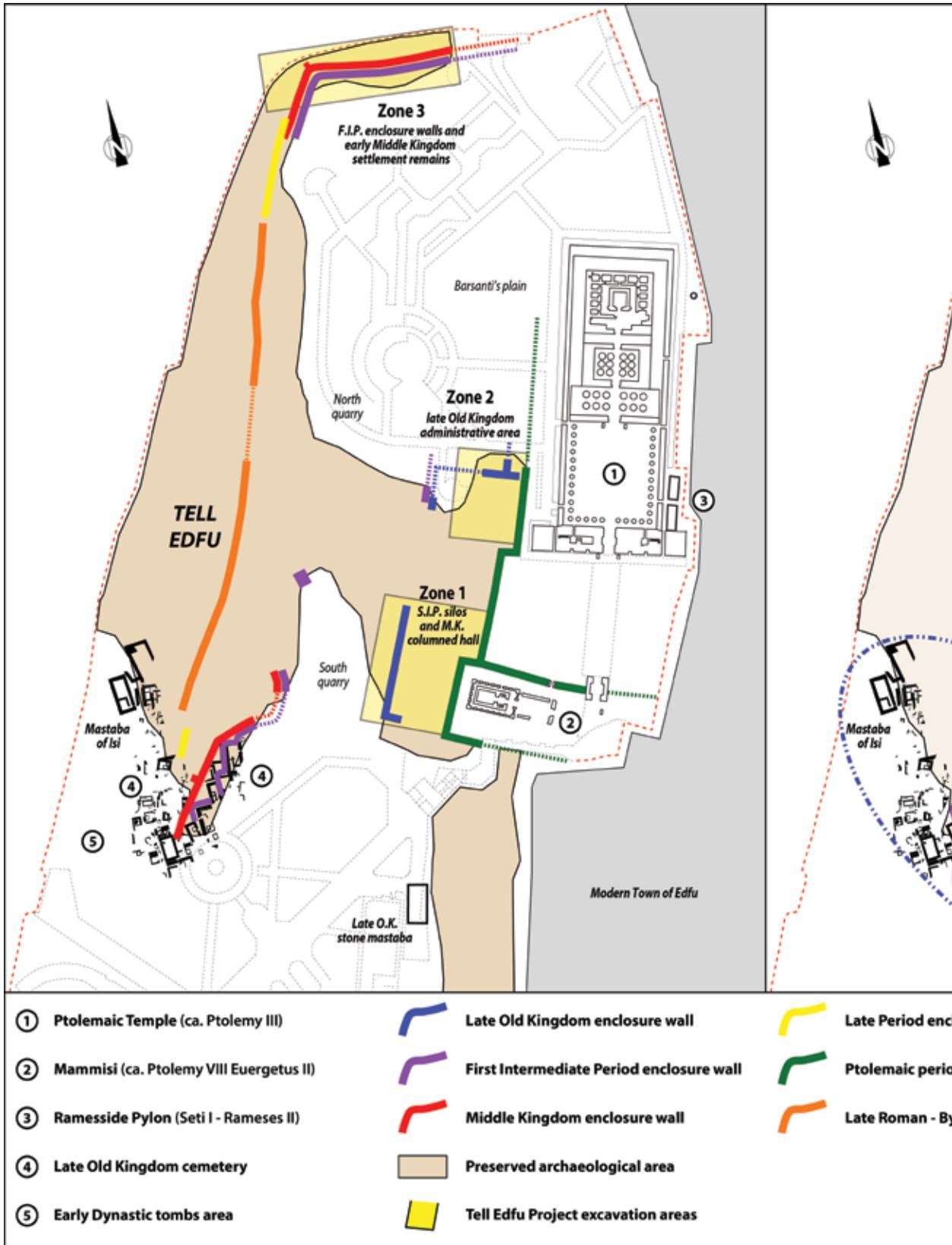
ABOVE: Figure 1. Map of Old Kingdom Egypt with the location of Edfu. Plan by G. Marouard.

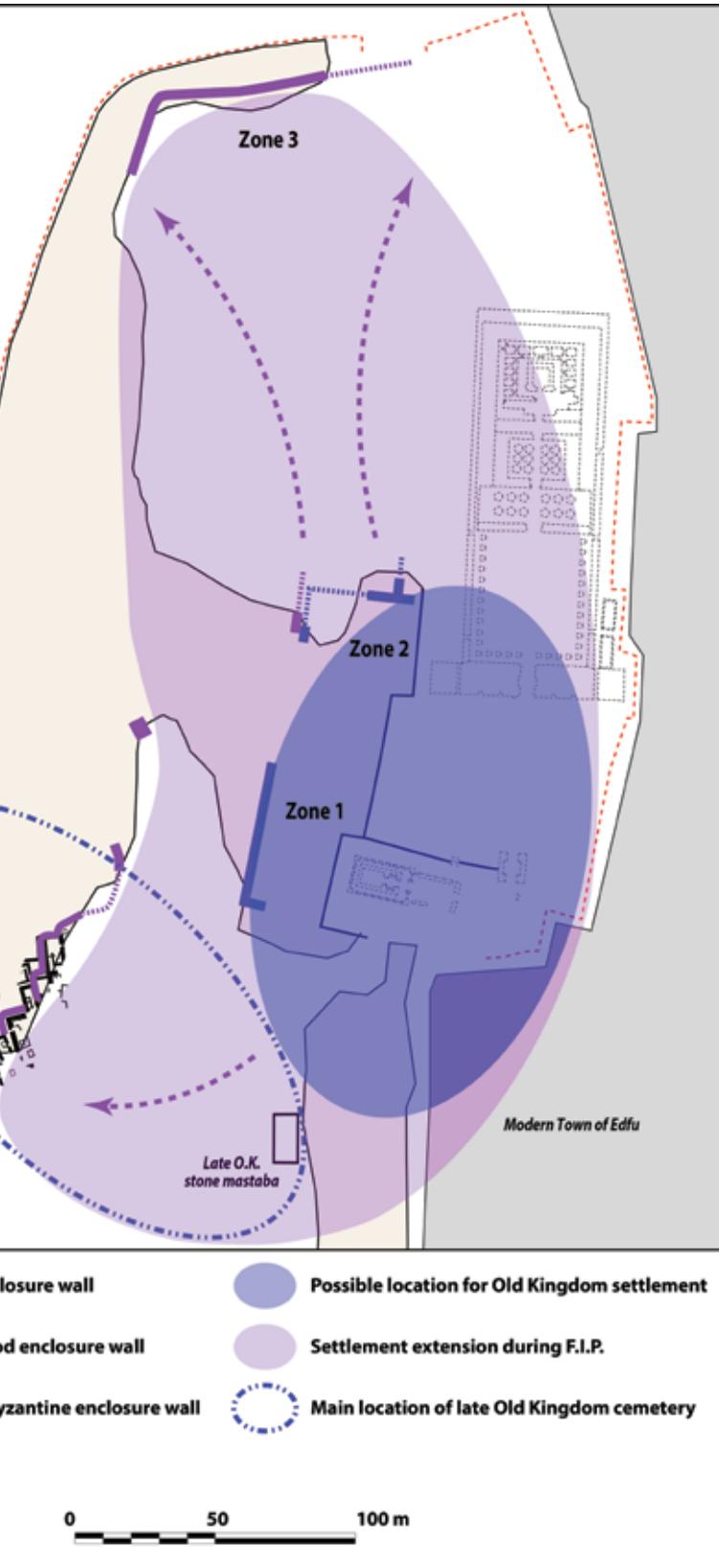


ABOVE: Figure 2. Aerial view of ongoing excavations at Zone 2 during the 2017 campaign. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

EXCAVATIONS ON THE OLD KINGDOM SETTLEMENT IN ZONE 2

The main objective of Zone 2 is to investigate an area on the northeastern side of the currently preserved tell, located only 25 m on the west of the Ptolemaic temple, which corresponds to the only parts of the site where archaeological strata dating to the Old Kingdom are still accessible (fig. 3). Much of the remains in the area had been covered by several meters of unstratified debris dumped here by *sebbakh* diggers and previous excavations conducted by the French Institute (IFAO) in the 1920s and 1930s. After several seasons that involved the removal of a thick deposition of mudbrick rubble and mixed pottery, archaeological layers which were still in situ were finally reached in 2012. These layers had also suffered from *sebbakh* digging which left deep holes cutting through the ancient stratigraphy. Over the past three seasons it has been possible to reach the natural bedrock in two areas and to follow the overall development of a settlement quarter, from the oldest layers of occupation (ca. 2450 BCE) founded directly onto the natural substratum to the last preserved remains here which date to the late First Intermediate Period (ca. 2100 BCE). It is now evident that this town sector saw several phases of drastic transformations over time.





The oldest remains so far unearthed are part of an ex-nihilo foundation, which is probably the result of the gradual westward expansion of the town (fig. 3). The currently available archaeological evidence and preliminary geo-morphological observations suggest that there was a steady expansion from southeast to northwest, with the origins of the town that would have first been settled on a sandstone island, delimited by a significant cliff on the eastern side which probably marks the position of the course of the Nile at a period that is not yet determined. The bedrock formation underlying the settlement is not uniform and during the excavations in different locations of the site both natural Nile sand deposits and a sandstone outcrop were reached. The settlement site gradually expanded during the late Old Kingdom period and by the end of the third millennium BCE it was occupying the totality of this natural rock terrace, which forms a more or less steep slope from northwest to southeast.

In Zone 2, the oldest constructions belong to a settlement phase that has been provisionally designated as “monumental” because of two sizeable buildings that do not show any of the characteristics of domestic architecture.

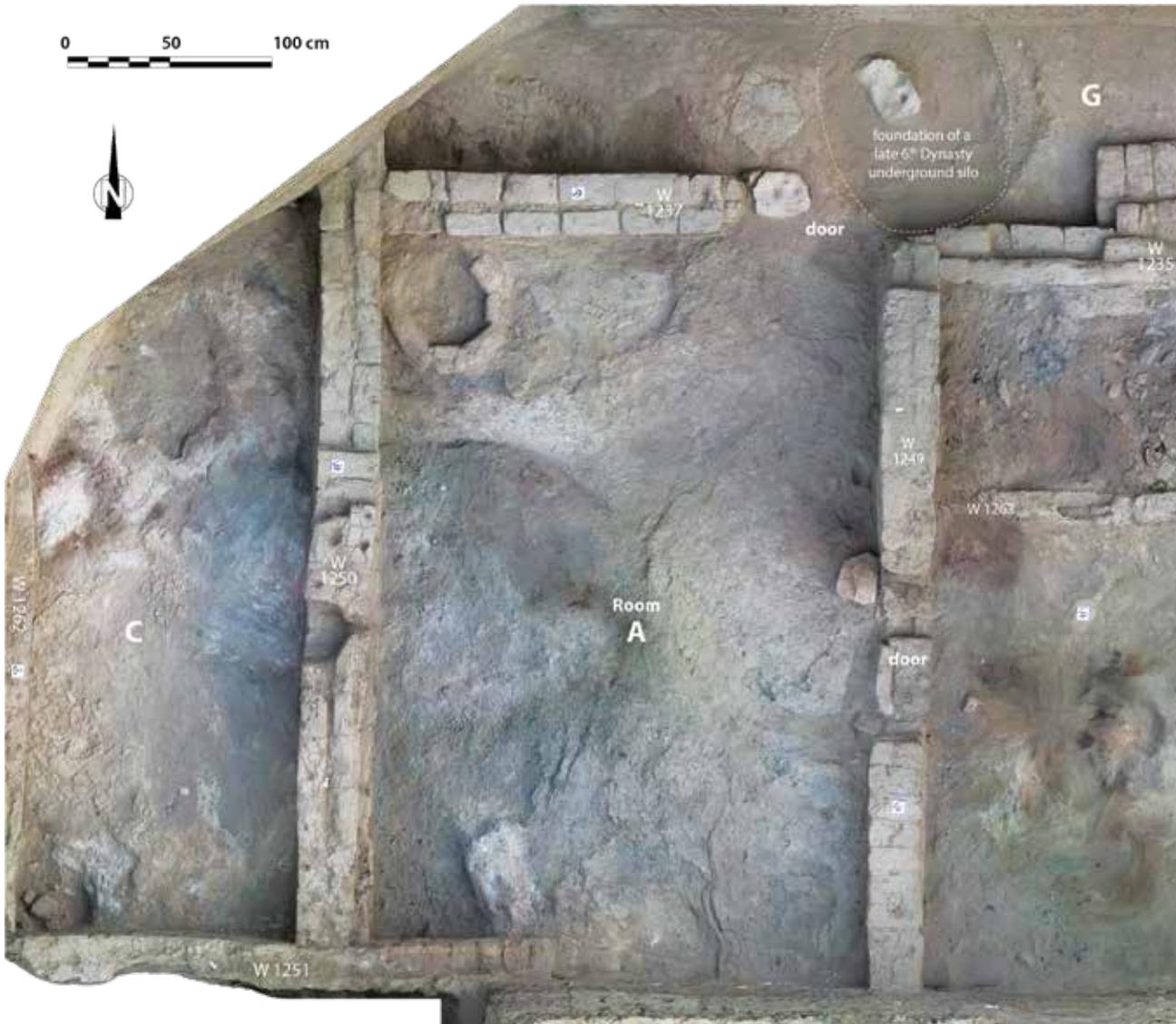
LEFT: Figure 3. Schematic plan of Tell Edfu showing excavation areas, sections of enclosure walls, and an attempt to reconstruct the evolution of the settlement between the Old Kingdom and the First Intermediate Period. Plan by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

In 2017 we completed the excavation of four large rooms on the northern side of Zone 2 (fig. 4), which corresponds to the limits of preserved remains that have not been completely destroyed by *sebbakh* diggers. The central room (A) measures 2.75 m wide and 3.80 m long. It had two doorways, one linking it on the eastern side to an open courtyard, and another door on its northern side led probably into a kind of corridor (G). Two stones with door sockets have been found at both doors which further confirms that the central room once was a closed room with two entrances. Much of its eastern half has been marked by layers of ash on the floor from a massive fireplace used for a relatively long period. In the northwestern corner a small round bin made of single mudbricks was found. The large room (B) to east of the central room was a courtyard according to its dimensions and the numerous traces for fireplaces. It measures 3.80 m in length and 3.05 m in width and it was always used as an open space throughout the occupation of this area. Adjacent on its eastern side, some thinner walls are present, only one mudbrick wide, which belong to several small rooms (D, E, F) without a direct connection to the courtyard but their full extent is not visible farther to the east and south since the later enclosure wall is covering these remains. A corridor (G) can be seen on the northern side, stretching along the full length of both the central room and the courtyard. Again, this space is also incomplete since farther north the archaeological remains were destroyed by the *sebbakhin*. The last space exposed is a narrow room (C) to the western side of the central room (A). Its width is only 1.45 m while its length is 3.80 m, and it must have connected to the corridor on the northern side.

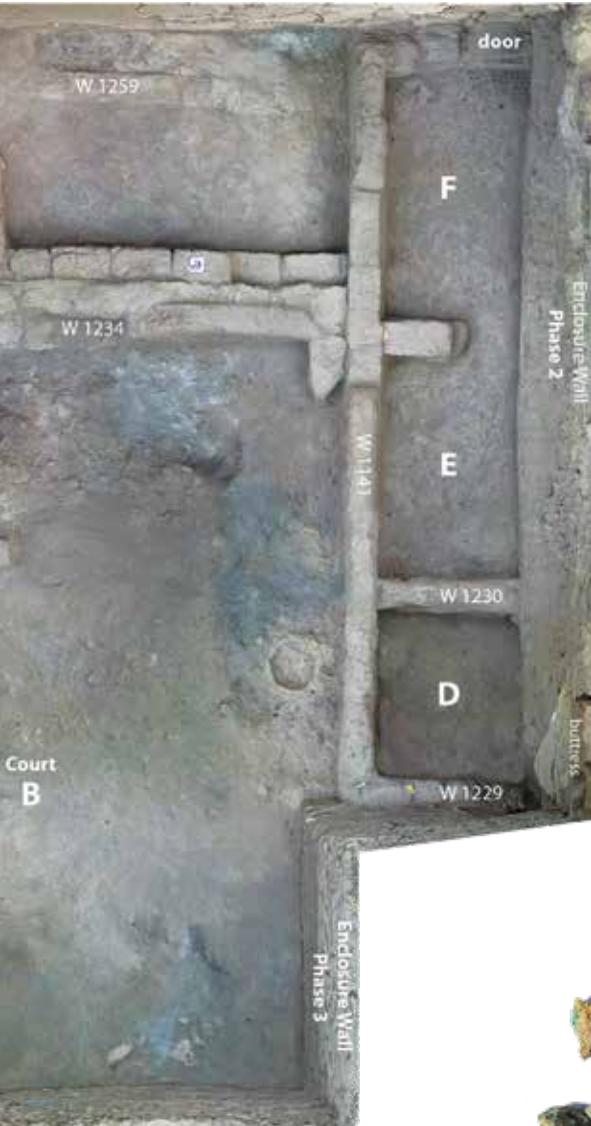
RIGHT: Figure 4. View of the workshop installations in northern part of Zone 2, from the east. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.







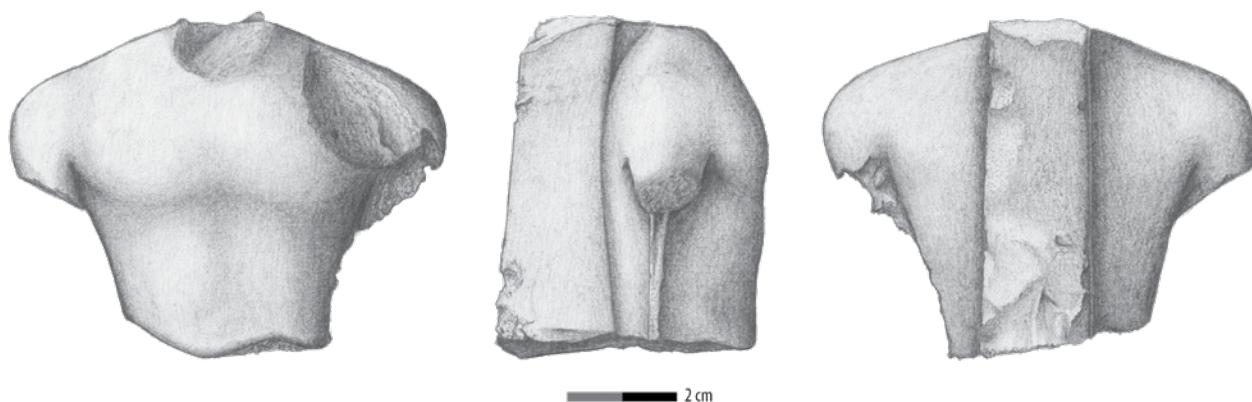
Since 2016, several layers of occupation covering the floor levels have been excavated within these spaces that contained numerous traces of fireplaces with ash deposits (fig. 5) in addition to important quantities of Fifth Dynasty bread molds (with a *bedja* shape) and beer jars. In the courtyard the archaeological contexts were the richest and the only ones that contained, in several successive layers of occupation, a large amount of broken clay sealings from jar stoppers and other commodities such as bags, baskets, and boxes. Some of them discovered in 2016 and 2017 show traces of seal impressions and the best-preserved one (fig. 6) is marked by a cylinder seal impression naming the titles of a priest and the Horus name in a *serekh* of king Djedkare-Isesi, *Djed-Khaw*, the penultimate ruler of the Fifth Dynasty (ca. 2475–2450 BCE). Also associated with the occupation of these rooms are regular traces of metallurgical activity such as crushed slag pieces, fragments of copper ore (fig. 7), and pieces of crucibles covered with green copper splashes.



2 cm



ABOVE LEFT: Figure 5. Orthophoto of the workshop installations along the northern limit of Zone 2. Orthophoto by N. Moeller, Tell Edfu Project. ABOVE RIGHT: Figure 6. Clay sealing with a cylinder seal impression showing the *serekh* of Djedkare-Isesi. Photo by N. Moeller, Tell Edfu Project. BOTTOM RIGHT: Figure 7. Fragments of copper ore (malachite) discovered in the northern workshop area of Zone 2. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.



ABOVE: Figure 8. Drawing of one of the two limestone figures found in the workshop area. Drawing by C. Lemoine, Tell Edfu Project.

These installations along the northern limit of Zone 2 indicate the presence of workshops linked to official and administrative contexts as can be seen by the presence of broken clay sealings, the fragments of limestone figurines (fig. 8), and the traces of metallurgy which are typically carried out by highly skilled craftsmen who were working to supply the elite and higher officials with copper. Those components are not usually part of any kind of domestic household activities. The processing of copper in particular during the Old Kingdom was almost exclusively conducted under the supervision of official institutions and the exploitation of this kind of raw material was exclusively organized by the central state under the charge of a high official personage sent by the king.

Based on the discovered activity areas, it can be considered a workshop area dating primarily to the late Fifth Dynasty (ca. 2450–2400 BCE), which has close parallels to the larger installation of workshops at the town of Elephantine in the First Cataract region. As mentioned previously these structures can be considered the first installations in this part of the settlement at Edfu and they were founded *ex-nihilo*, directly on the natural Nile sand deposits. Only a few light installations, small trash pits, occasional fireplaces, and postholes were observed on the surface of the natural sand. However, the pottery assemblages of these older levels are not chronologically different from the workshop facilities and might correspond to the immediately preceding construction phase.

After three seasons in a row of very fine-level excavation and a detailed recording of all the floor levels using photogrammetry, these rooms and the courtyard were all covered with yellow sand and all of the area was back-filled in order to protect those fragile remains.

THE NORTHERN BUILDING 1

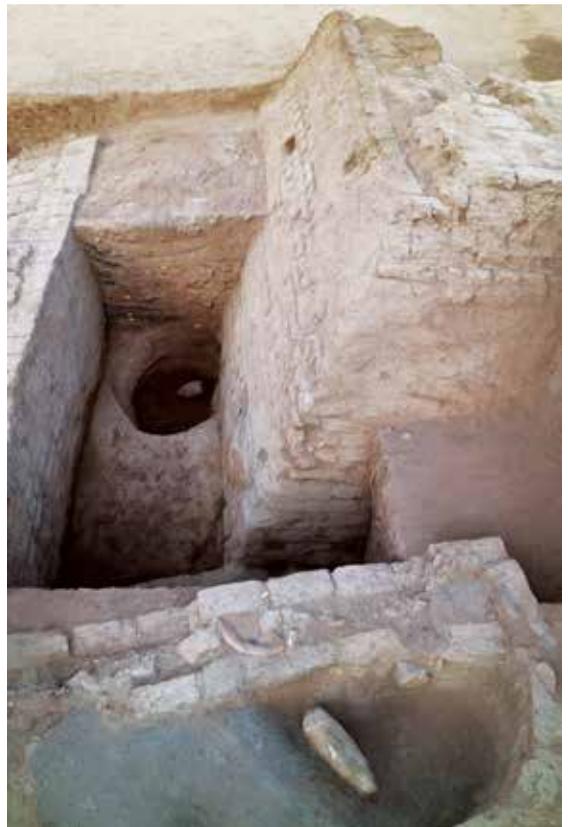
Underlining the non-domestic character of this late Fifth Dynasty *ex-nihilo* foundation town quarter are two large buildings discovered along the western side of the Zone 2.

The massive exterior walls and the main eastern entrance of an important unusual mudbrick building had been exposed on the central western limit of Zone 2 (fig. 9). Its eastern, northern, and southern outer walls have been preserved only to a small extent but on a significant elevation of about 2.2 m above the functioning floor level. The Northern Building was originally orientated east–west and only its eastern façade including the main entrance door is preserved, which consists of the wooden lintel and door found still in situ during our 2012 season (OI *Annual Report 2013*,



ABOVE: Figure 9. General view of the southern part of Zone 2 with the two large mudbrick buildings (late Fifth Dynasty) emerging from later courtyard levels (early to mid-Sixth Dynasty). BOTTOM RIGHT: Figure 10. Southeastern corner of Northern Building 1 showing its façade with the distinctive slope. Photos by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

pp. 118–19). The majority of the interior to the west was unfortunately destroyed by the *sebbakh* diggers but it seems very likely that the lost part of this construction was already noticed by French archaeologist M. Alliot during its excavation of the upper part of the tell in ca. 1932–33. The northern and southern walls have respectively a width of 2.3 and 2.8 m. The eastern exterior façade stretches 9.2 m from north to south and probably more than 10 m at its base which has not been reached yet. On the three sides of this building the façade presents a fairly steep slope (fig. 10). A phase of renovation was noted on the southern wall during the excavations in form of a second mudbrick layer built against the original wall covering its lower courses, with a stone foundation at the southeast corner.



As has been the case with the northern area, the Northern Building 1 was founded directly on the natural Nile sand deposits; it constitutes therefore the first planned installation here, which seems to be contemporary and probably directly connected with the workshop area. Unfortunately, no object that would provide any precise indication about the function of Building 1 has come to light so far. In 2014, a trench was dug along the interior of the entrance in order to reach the corresponding floor level, which is situated 1.8 m below the lintel (OI *Annual Report* 2015, pp. 158–59, fig. 8). This permitted us to observe a system of an entry room in the southeast corner that led to two rooms to the west and the north. The only activity recognized in this small room was a fireplace used for smelting copper which was installed a short time before the building was abandoned (OI *Annual Report* 2014, p. 158, fig. 8). The massive trash layers that had covered the small entrance space seems to have filled up quickly with debris containing not only late Fifth Dynasty and early Sixth Dynasty pottery but also pieces of copper slag and crucible fragments attesting again metallurgical activity in the area even after the abandonment of the structure.

The architectural features are rather unusual and have no parallels in the currently known archaeological record. A purely funerary function, such as a *mastaba* tomb, can also be excluded because of the lack of finds that would be typical for mortuary cult activities (i.e., offering and model vessels, stone elements such as stelae, or offering table fragments). The cemetery during this same period is already attested to the southwest of the tell, more than 150 m from Zone 2.

Furthermore, it was possible during the excavations in the fall 2016 season to uncover a 1 m thick perimeter wall (W 1210) that is located to the south of this building, once again built directly on natural sand deposits. This well-built wall also has faces with a slight slope and it runs east–west for about 12.5 m along the southern side of the Building 1 (fig. 11). It is then linked on the east to a second wall of identical dimensions (W 1170) which runs north–south over a distance of at least 9 m. These two long walls were used as a delimitation for a very large space which covers an open area of at least 100 sq m on the eastern side of the Building 1, possibly a vast courtyard. The excavation of





ABOVE: Figure 11. General view of ongoing excavations in the central part of Zone 2 showing the thick perimeter walls (W 1170 and W 1210) which separates the Northern and the Southern buildings and delimited their eastern courtyards. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

this outer zone that occupies most of the central part of Zone 2 will be the focus of next season excavations. The area is still marked for the moment by a series of small domestic courtyards which date back to the beginning of the Sixth Dynasty (fig. 9).

THE SOUTHERN BUILDING 2

Another massive mudbrick building was discovered in 2016 on the south side of perimeter wall W 1210, which seems to have separated these two large constructions from each other. Walls W 1210 and W 1170 thus formed the northern and eastern boundaries of this Building 2 complex, which also had a large courtyard area to the east (fig. 11). No door, nor any direct connection to the area of Building 1, or any opening to the east has been discovered so far. Building 2 is also incomplete in its preservation and most of its interior, which would have stretched towards the west has disappeared due to *sebbakh* digging. Only the northeastern corner of Building 2 has been unearthed and its opposite angle to the south is still masked by more than 8 m of in situ stratigraphy. The northern face is preserved on 4.1 m in length and its eastern façade stretches along a distance of 6.4 m; its preserved elevation exceeds 1.9 m. Although its brick

materials and modules are the same, it differs architecturally from Building 1 since its exterior walls are less thick (only about 0.9 to 1.0 m in width) and they do not show the same slope but a vertical face. No entrance has been identified for the moment. Internal spaces were only briefly explored with a test trench that has not yet reached the internal floor level. Nevertheless, the external levels show us one more time that this construction was built directly onto the natural Nile sand substratum. It is interesting to note that both of the large Buildings 1 and 2 are also perfectly aligned and separated by the same perimeter wall W 1210 that divides the area into two large square spaces. They clearly form part to the same construction project and all the components belong to the same contemporaneous building complex.



ABOVE: Figure 12. General view of the courtyard east of Southern Building 2, from the south, showing some of the smaller walls that were added later to this initially open space. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

CIRCLE INSET: Figure 13. Deep trash pit cut into the original floor of eastern courtyard Southern Building containing complete beer jars and *bedja* bread molds typical for the late Fifth Dynasty. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

In fall 2017, the entire exterior of Building 2 was excavated (fig. 12), revealing intense cooking activities (bread and maybe beer production) and the presence of storage facilities (one granary and multiple large storage jars) mainly associated with several secondary rooms that were gradually installed in the vast space that had been marked originally by an open area to the eastern side, similar to the open courtyard east of Building 1. During the very first phase of occupation, this area was a single open space, which was characterized by a thick brown organic layer (animal bedding) with multiple fireplaces and deep trash pits often containing complete beer jars and *bedja* bread molds (fig. 13).

More importantly, numerous broken clay sealings have been excavated (fig. 14), which were mainly found in one of these pits that had been cut into the first phase of occupation when this area was still an open courtyard. These sealings show again multiple impressions mentioning the



LEFT: Figure 14. Broken clay sealings freshly excavated from the open courtyard of Southern Building 2. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project. RIGHT: Figure 15. Three sealings showing the *serekh* and cartouche of Djedkare-Isesi in addition to the *sementiu* (far right). Photo by N. Moeller, Tell Edfu Project.

cartouche and *serekh* with Horus name of King Djedkare-Isesi (fig. 15), which confirms the contemporaneity to the workshop area along the northern side of Zone 2. They also suggest that administrative activities formed an important component here. The backtypes of the sealings show evidence for papyrus fibers, woodgrain, basket, and tissue fiber imprints pertaining to the multitude of commodities (letters, boxes, baskets, and bags) that were opened here. The extremely fine imprints of the cylinder seals attest to the use of high quality seals that are usually associated with activities of high officials in the Memphite region who received particular tasks assigned to them by the king. Most interesting is the fact that on a large number of sealings a particular group of prospectors is mentioned, the *sementiu* (fig. 15), in addition to the rare title of “Overseer of the *Sementiu*,” who are usually associated with official expeditions and mining activities. As the evidence stands right now, it seems that King Djedkare-Isesi might have sent an important official from Memphis to Edfu with the task to administer mining expeditions and the collection of raw material (gold, copper, and precious stones) in the Eastern Desert area. This also fits to Tell Edfu’s strategic location in the Nile valley placed near the main access routes and wadis which lead to the Eastern Desert and offered a direct access to several major mining sites (Wadi Baramiya) and to the Red Sea shore.

More excavations in Zone 2 are certainly necessary to confirm this current working hypothesis and the aim for future fieldwork is to find out more about the precise function of these late Fifth Dynasty complexes, which belong to the earliest phases of occupation in the city’s history so far uncovered at Tell Edfu. The discovery of more than 200 official sealings and the architectural features exclude a domestic context here. The various characteristics that mark both buildings, such as the ex-nihilo construction, the presence of monumental mudbrick architecture, a common perimeter wall, and the adjacent large open courtyards and workshops, make the presence of some kind of official and administrative complex the most plausible interpretation with regard to their function at this current stage of research.



ABOVE: Figure 16. General view of the three phases of enclosure walls of the early Sixth Dynasty, which enclosed the buildings of the late Fifth Dynasty and covered the workshop installation. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.



Furthermore, it appears that the two massive mudbrick buildings were not leveled or dismantled after their abandonment. Those remained quite important features in the area even after they had fallen out of use, which can be seen to the north of Zone 2 by a sequence of three phases of massive enclosure walls (fig. 16). The architectural analysis and stratigraphic study of those three successive mudbrick precincts have been conducted by Oren Siegel in the context of his current PhD research at the University of Chicago. This work permitted to obtain more information about the particular construction details of the third and second phases, which are characterized by the addition of small square buttresses on their exterior faces and by a steep slope for the second phase. These elements seem to have served more of symbolic/decorative purpose of the enclosure walls which had nevertheless no real defensive function here. Based on the stratigraphic evidence, these early Sixth Dynasty walls clearly post-date the earlier settlement phase (they cover the workshop installation along the northern limit of Zone 2) and seem to have been intentionally avoiding Building 1 by constructing the walls in a peculiar way that makes it turn in several right angles towards the north and east. The older structures, Buildings 1 and 2, were thus deliberately included inside this newly enclosed area that “faithfully” preserved their main orientations. This might further attest to a likely symbolic importance for this complex and a close connection to the main temple of Horus from the Old Kingdom period cannot be excluded, traces of which are probably situated right underneath the later Ptolemaic temple of Horus that stands only 20 m to the east.

Later, the entire area clearly served as a large open dump, and only after official Building 1 and 2 began to be covered up and were no longer visible in the urban landscape, the space was gradually colonized by various small courtyards whose character is clearly of domestic nature (fig. 9). After this radical change in function, it seems that this sector has subsequently kept exclusively a domestic purpose for quite a significant time from mid-Sixth Dynasty until the early First Intermediate Period.

THE EARLY NEW KINGDOM SETTLEMENT AREA NORTH OF ZONE 1

At the same time as excavations continued in Zone 2, a new area of about 1,000 sq m has been opened on top of the tell, north of the Second Intermediate Period silo courtyard and late Middle Kingdom governor's palace previously excavated between 2006 and 2012 (Zone 1). The work mainly consisted in cleaning and preparation (fig. 17) for a new excavation which will be started next season 2018.

This part of the site was previously excavated around 1933–34 by M. Alliot for the French Institute in Cairo (IFAO). Most of the visible walls and granaries in the area belong to several Third Intermediate Period and Late Period domestic installations (ca. 800–600 BCE), mostly from the Twenty-fifth and Twenty-sixth Dynasties (fig. 18). Those remains are badly preserved today and were not carefully recorded. After more than eighty years of exposure, many of the walls have already collapsed and all are completely disconnected from any archaeological context. Several rectangular underground silos, similar to those previously excavated in Zone 1, are still preserved but all have already been cleared from their filling and are now disconnected from their original circulation layers and functioning floors.

A lot of modern trash, unstratified debris, and previous excavation dumps were cleared this season in order to re-expose those walls and silos with the aim to prepare an accurate mapping operation using photogrammetry next fall 2018. Many of those installations have been built on

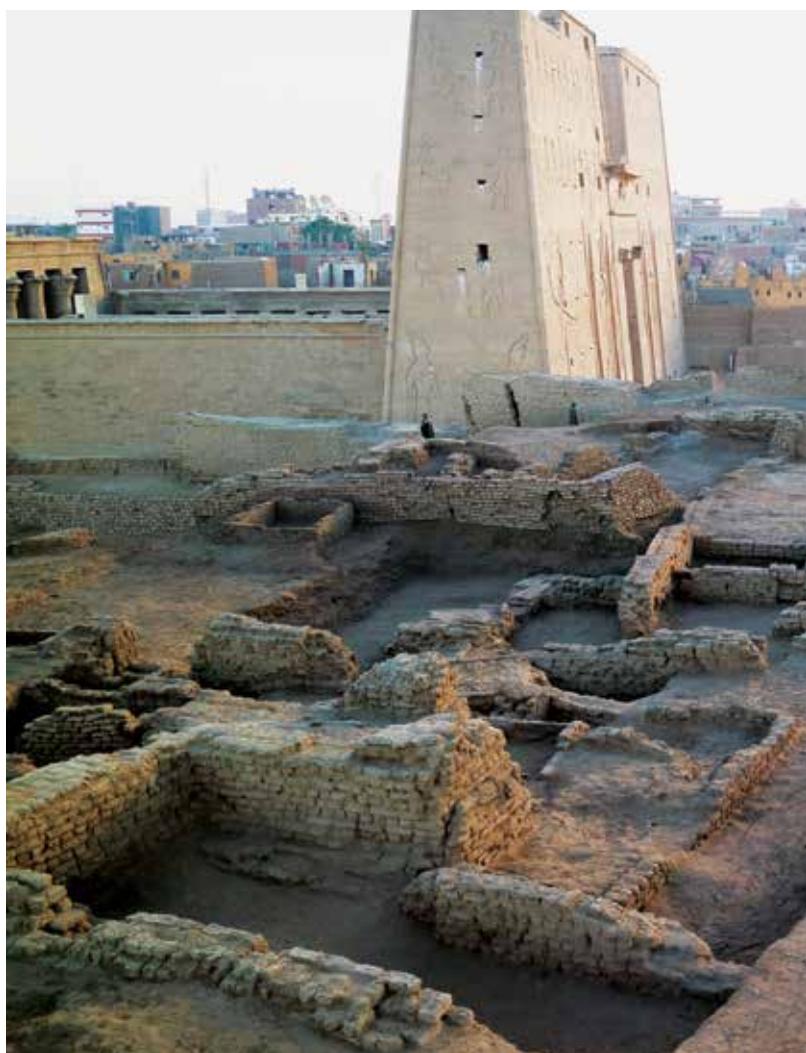




ABOVE: Figure 17. Aerial view of the new early New Kingdom settlement area north of Zone 1. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

the top of a large settlement phase from the early New Kingdom period (early and mid-Eighteenth Dynasty) which is the main goal of this new area. This level, which is characterized by well-constructed and very thick walls, constitute the extension of a large New Kingdom building that was partially excavated farther south during the 2015 season (OI *Annual Report* 2015, pp. 153–54, fig. 5). Interpreted as a domestic house at first, it could actually be a much larger building whose function remains to be determined.

Settlement installations of the Eighteenth Dynasty known in urban context and excavated at archaeological tell sites are particularly rare. The excavation of this area might produce entirely new information about Edfu's history during the early New Kingdom period which still remains peculiarly silent. A possible relationship of these constructions with the synchronous large production dumps, which completely filled and covered the silos courtyard excavated farther south, could also bring important information and finally a better architectural framework for hundreds of written accounts on ostraca previously discovered in Zone 1.



ABOVE: Figure 18. View of the new early New Kingdom area after the cleaning operations conducted in 2017 showing the Late Period walls and silos excavated by French archeologist M. Alliot in 1933–34. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project. FAR RIGHT: Figure 19. Zone 2 pottery storage area under study by Katarina Arias Kytarová. Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

CERAMIC ANALYSIS

We were joined this season by Katarina Arias Kytarová, an expert for the pottery of the Old Kingdom, who is a member of the renowned Czech Institute of Egyptology and Charles University excavation project at Abusir, that focuses on the Fifth Dynasty royal necropolis located between Giza and Saqqara. She was able to process a large part of the pottery discovered in the Zone 2 excavations this season (fig. 19) and to build a close comparison for the Fifth and Sixth Dynasty pottery from both sites at Abusir and Edfu. It shows many parallels in the shapes and manufacturing details; the main difference lies in the fabrics used for the pottery vessels, indicating an important local production at Tell Edfu which, however, follows the general morphological types of the northern regions of Egypt.

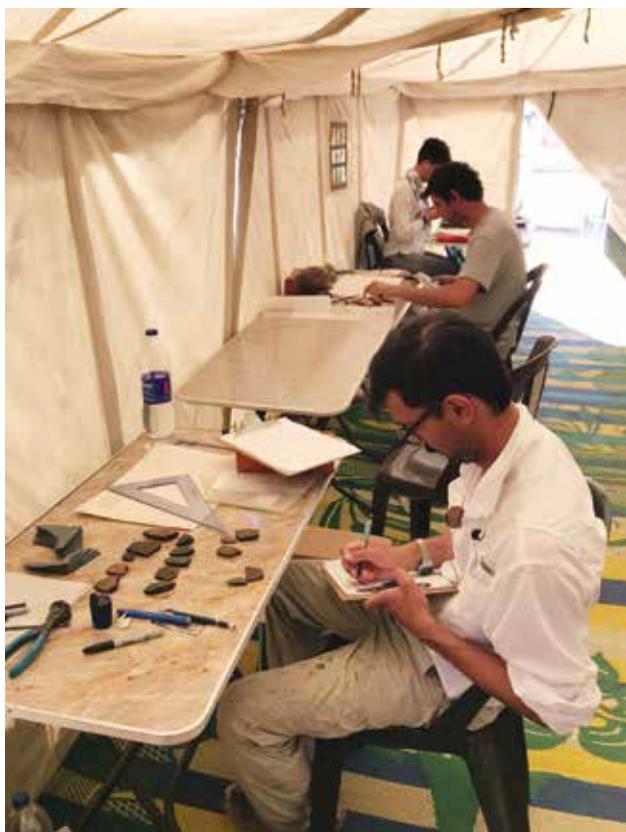


Aaron de Souza, from the Macquarie University, Sydney, continued his study of the Nubian and C-Group pottery material excavated during the previous seasons in Zone 1, which date to the late Second Intermediate Period and the early New Kingdom (fig. 20). He also studied numerous new pieces of Nubian A-Group and possible Eastern Desert ware pottery from the late Old Kingdom contexts found in Zone 2. The presence of these ceramics, especially in the contexts presented above and dated from the time of King Djedkare-Isesi, highlights possible contacts and exchanges with the populations from Eastern Desert regions with whom the mining expeditions sent from Edfu had to regularly interact.

ARCHAEOBOTANICAL AND FAUNAL ANALYSIS

With the support of the FIRE fund for innovation and archaeological research in Egypt, Claire Newton, an archaeobotanist from the University of Quebec at Rimousky, was able to join us for a first season. She started a new study of the plant and organic remains from the Old Kingdom and First Intermediate Period settlement phases in Zone 2 and Zone 3. She tested several contexts and sorted multiple samples from the northern workshop area and the eastern courtyard of the Southern Building in Zone 2. Organic

remains (grain, seeds, charcoal) are very well-preserved in general in this area. She noted a relatively typical assemblage for pharaonic Nile valley sites in terms of crops, with a clear predominance of six-row barley compared to emmer wheat, a point which needs to be clarified. Cereal straw is nearly absent and, combined with the fact that barley “ears” are generally present, she hypothesized that the grain arrived on site in the form of complete, unthreshed ears harvested by cutting just below the ear. Claire also noticed flax seeds, cucumber/melon, or lentils for annual crops. She noted significant quantities of wild grasses (*setaria*, *enarthrocarpus*) that grow on the banks of the Nile valley and canals. Seeds and leaf fragments of acacia are omnipresent and were probably integrated in the assemblages with the fuelwood. She also carried out a preliminary anthracologic study and



looked at the charcoal residues and sampled the charred construction of wood regularly found during excavations.

Sasha Rohret (University of Chicago) worked intensely on the analysis and recording of the animal bones from Old Kingdom contexts from Zone 2 (fig. 21) in the perspective of her future PhD research that starts next year. Among the more unusual results, she was able to recognize some bones from a juvenile hippo leg that showed several cut marks. A significant portion of fish bones in addition to sheep and goat were present as well.

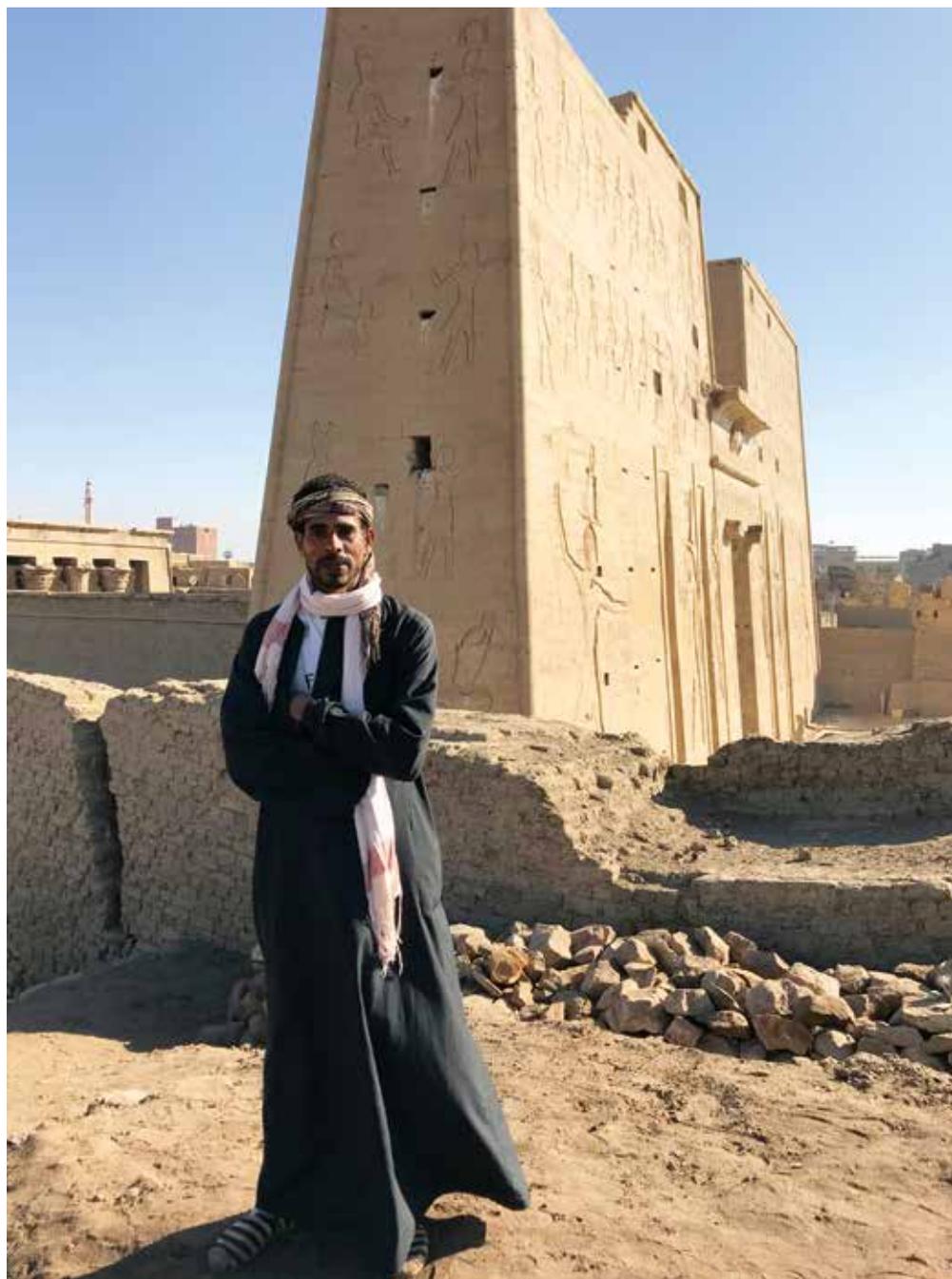
SCIENTIFIC COMMUNICATIONS

The project directors gave several lectures about recent results at Tell Edfu (put into perspective with the OI fieldwork at another settlement site at Dendara), in July 2017 at the OKAA (Old Kingdom Art and Archaeology) conference in Milan and in September 2017 at the AcrossBorders conference (“From Microcosm to Macrocosm: Individual Households and Cities in Ancient Egypt and Nubia”) held in Munich. These communications will be soon published in two volumes of proceedings. Other lectures were given in winter and spring 2018 at the University of Wisconsin Lacrosse, Yale University, and at Columbia University, New York. A press release from the Egyptian Ministry of Antiquities (MoA) officially announced in January 2018 the discovery of a late Fifth Dynasty settlement quarter at Tell Edfu from the time of King Djedkare-Isesi.

ABOVE LEFT: Figure 20. Nubian and C-Group pottery material from Zone 1 under study by Aaron De Souza. BOTTOM LEFT: Figure 21. Sasha Rohret working on the analysis and recording of the animal bones from Old Kingdom contexts from Zone 2. Photos by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

TOP RIGHT: Figure 22. Nadine Moeller analyzing the newly discovered Djedkare Isesi clay sealings discovered in Zone 2. MIDDLE: Figure 23. Small finds artist Camille Lemoine drawing a Nubian sherd from Zone 1. BOTTOM: Figure 24. Emilie Sarrazin using a Artec Space Spider handheld 3-D scanner to digitize a clay sealing in three dimensions. Photos by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.





ABOVE: Figure 25. Raïs Yasser Mohamed Hassan posing in front of the Horus Temple at Edfu. Photo: G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.



ABOVE: Figure 26. The 2017 Tell Edfu Project's team.
Photo by G. Marouard, Tell Edfu Project.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The directors and entire Tell Edfu team would like to thank the Edfu inspectorate for their help and collaboration this year, especially Susi Samir Labib (chief inspector), Ramadan Hassan Ahmed, Dr. Sami and of course Madonna Nashaat Habib Girgis and Amna Yussef Ali Hassan, our two inspectors. We would also express our gratitude to Mr. Nasser Salama, former General Director of Aswan and Nubian Antiquities Council, and Mohamed Abd el-Moneim, the new General Director of Aswan Inspectorate. We also express our gratitude to Mary Sadek (ARCE Cairo office) for their help with the paperwork and MoA related matters. This 2017 campaign was funded with the support of the Oriental Institute and its director, Chris Woods, and the FIRE fund for innovation and archaeological research in Egypt. We would like also to thank all of our generous donors and enthusiastic supporters of the Tell Edfu Project who have been following our work for many years.