

Gregory Marouard

This year **Gregory Marouard** spent six months working on the Tell Edfu Project as an Assistant Director (with Nadine Moeller, director). He devoted two months to fieldwork at Edfu (Upper Egypt) from October to November, supervising two new excavation trenches in an Old Kingdom domestic sector and on the First Intermediate Period enclosure wall area (see *Tell Edfu* report). Four months of post-excavation work were used for updating Tell Edfu Project's database, managing the field data, drawing plans and sections in Illustrator, etc. He presented the new version of the database at the FileMaker workshop organized at the Oriental Institute in May 2012. He also completed an important article, "Discussion of Late Middle Kingdom and Early Second Intermediate Period History and Chronology in Relation to the Khayan Sealings Discovered at Tell Edfu," co-written with Nadine Moeller and Natasha Ayers, for a forthcoming issue of *Egypt and the Levant*.

As the director of the Edfu Pyramid Conservation Project, he led the first campaign at the small step pyramid of Edfu in December 2011 (see *Tell Edfu* report). He introduced this program at a Brown Bag talk at the Oriental Institute in September 2011, "The Edfu Pyramid Project: Recent Investigations at the Last Unexplored Provincial Pyramid," and he presented, in collaboration with Hratch Papazian, the preliminary results of the first campaign in spring *News & Notes*, "The Edfu Pyramid Project: Recent Investigation at the Last Unexplored Provincial Step Pyramid" (#213, pp. 3-9). Two applications submitted for funding (the American Research Center in Egypt Antiquities Endowment Fund and the Archaeological Institute of America Conservation Grant) did not provide the funds necessary to begin the conservation work. Nevertheless, in the next campaign he will try to fulfill the aims of the first part of this project, which includes the general cleaning of the superstructure, the protection of the site, and perhaps some "first-aid" conservation intervention, if funding permits.



Pharaonic stele discovered by Marouard in Wadi Araba

In January, Gregory joined the Wadi Araba Survey (Egyptian Eastern Desert, directed by Yann Tristant, Macquarie University, Sydney) for two weeks, in order to complete the exploration of the Old and Middle Kingdom Pharaonic trail discovered last year. It can now be followed for more than 38 km (ca. 23 miles) from west to east. More than 200 visual stone markers (*alamats*) mark the track and lead to a large mining site for copper and turquoise. Exploring this latter site in order to refine its dating by ceramics study, he discovered a pharaonic stele quite damaged and vandalized in antiquity (see photo), which can be assigned to the reign of Sesostris I (early

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Twelfth Dynasty, Middle Kingdom). This is actually the first epigraphic document discovered in the entire Wadi Araba area. A short article on these new discoveries is being finalized for the next bulletin of the French Institute, in collaboration with Yann Tristant.

In February, he joined the Institut français d'archéologie orientale excavation at the harbor site of Ayn Sokhna (Egyptian Red Sea Coast) for three weeks in order to complete the excavation of an Old Kingdom boatyard (sector K14), which was initiated in 2006 and could not be finished in 2011 due to the Egyptian revolution. He also completed the study of the pottery from this area, the stratigraphic study of a previous trench (sector G10), and is now preparing two chapters for a collective monograph.

In March and April, Gregory joined the early pharaonic harbor project at Wadi al-Jarf (Egyptian Red Sea Coast, directed by Pierre Tallet, University Paris IV Sorbonne) as a senior archaeologist in charge of the excavation for the Institut français d'archéologie orientale. This (second) season provided outstanding results due to the complete excavation of eight galleries used as storerooms for boat pieces and water storage jars. A block at the entrance of gallery G6 revealed an inscription including the name of Khufu, second pharaoh of the Fourth Dynasty and builder of the Great Pyramid of Giza. Dozens of inscriptions on jars also mention Khufu's Golden Horus Name, *bikuj-Nebu* or *Bjk.wj-nb.w*. It is now clear that Khufu's expeditions mark the end of the occupation at this site, perhaps put into operation during the reign of his father, Snofru. This discovery confirms that the site was used to reach the Sinaitic mining area and to support the copper supply for the major funerary projects of the early Fourth Dynasty (pyramids projects at Dashur, Meidum, and Giza). The work at Wadi al-Jarf also pushes the date of the oldest seaport back by more than 1,200 years, making it the oldest harbor site in the world! A first synthesis on this project was published with Pierre Tallet in the spring newsletter of the Egyptian Exploration Society, *Egyptian Archaeology*, "An Early Pharaonic Harbour on the Red Sea" (#40, 2012, pp. 40–43). Another article was completed for a forthcoming *Bulletin de l'Institut français d'archéologie orientale* (#112), "Un port de la IV^e dynastie identifié au ouadi al-Jarf (mer Rouge)."

Finally, in May, Gregory joined the French-German mission at Bouto (Egyptian Delta, directed by Pascale Ballet) as an Associate Director and Senior Archeologist. He finished the study of the contexts and objects of the last four-year program in two weeks and initiated the collective monograph on campaigns from 2007 to 2010. A short summary of these results was also published in the spring newsletter *Egyptian Archaeology*, "Workshops and Urban Settlement in Buto" (#40, 2012, pp. 14–17). A short article on the cross-interpretation of geomagnetic surveys and data from excavations is ongoing in collaboration with Tomasz Herbich (Institute of Archaeology and Ethnology, Polish Academy of Sciences Warsaw).

With the support of an interdisciplinary team of PhD students in ceramology from the University of Poitiers, he developed a completely new statistical and cartographic methodology for surveying. This method was tested on an area of over 11,000 m² and produced an important supplement to the geomagnetic survey and to the topographical models produced using drill cores. It has clearly revealed the northeastern limits of the town of Bouto during the last five phases of its occupation, from the Late Period (sixth century BC) to the beginning of Islamic Period (mid-ninth century AD).

Discussions with German Institute collaborators also helped to initiate the next program of excavations, which will include a large urban area dominated by domestic buildings dating from the Late Period (so-called casemate foundation buildings) to the beginning of the Hellenistic period. In the context of this work at Bouto, Gregory was appointed as a Research

Associate at the HeRMA laboratory (Hellénisation et Romanisation du Monde Antique) at the University of Poitiers, France.
