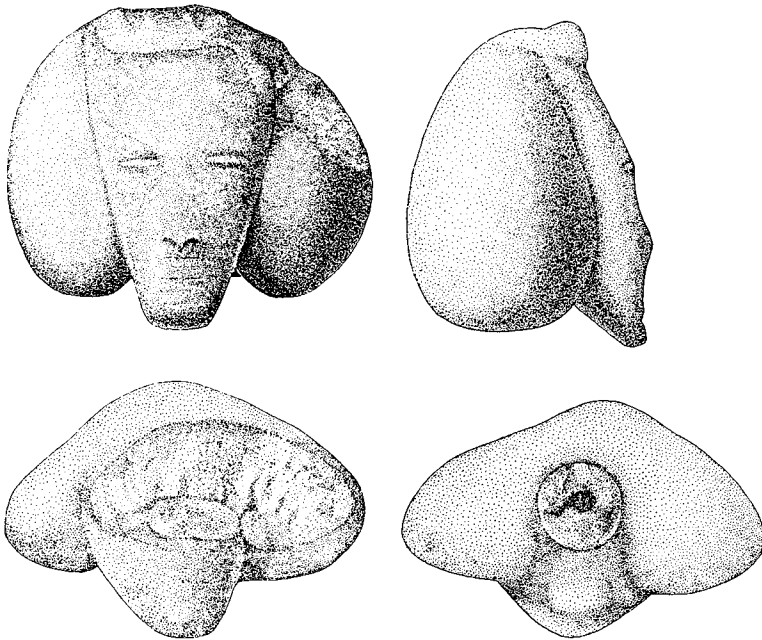


## N U B I A

Bruce Williams

Nubian Project

Preparing and editing manuscripts were major activities for the Nubian project in 1979–80. Editing of the volume covering C-Group, Pan Grave, and Kerma remains progressed considerably and even paid an unexpected dividend: during the process of checking, part of a C-Group figurine that had seemed uninformative was found to be a



*New from the Nubian material this year was this C-Group head of a clay figurine. The first C-Group male head found, it is a representation of unexpected power. The thick coiffure and narrow triangular face with its simple beard in some ways resemble those of modern Nilotic tribesmen, but the piece particularly resembles the heads of rangy foreign cowherds shown on the walls of Middle Kingdom tombs at Meir, Egypt (drawings by Joanna Steinkeller)*

## A R C H E O L O G Y

man's head. Although many female figurines are attested, no male heads were known to have survived, and the powerful appearance of this one makes it a substantial addition to the art of Nubia.

A draft manuscript for the volume of early remains other than Cemetery L was submitted this year; it includes Neolithic, A-Group, and Old Kingdom materials. A small pre-A-Group Sudanese Neolithic site, a cave at Adindan, is of special interest because the occurrence is further north than expected and because it includes fragments of ostrich-eggshell with giraffes incised on them, among the earliest portable representations from Nubia or Sudan.

Work has begun on the New Kingdom phase of the project, and it has been particularly challenging. Although the Egyptian hoped to be buried in his own tomb, more often he was interred in a deep shaft with one or more large chambers at the bottom, frequently crammed to the top with bodies, mostly plundered, and all or partly disarticulated. To make materials found in such circumstances useful, one must bring order to confusion by separating the layers and attempting to assign the objects to their proper burials.