



The study of the Oriental Institute's Nubian material has led BRUCE WILLIAMS to many interesting problems, some of which cannot be pursued in a site report. Three such topics claimed his attention this year. An article written with Thomas J. Logan, the Museum's Curator, describes the boss side of an ivory knife handle in the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The reverse had been known since the 1940s, but the badly damaged boss side was found to contain part of a bark procession of the kind found on incense burners from Nubia. The knife handle provides evidence to link a surprising amount of "Pre-dynastic" art with representations of later ages and identify it as pharaonic. A second article dealt with the rather tangled archaeological chronology of Meroitic Lower Nubia (before 300 A.D.). A third work, derived in part from last year's Members' Lecture, was concerned with architectural evidence for one of the most interesting and intractable problems in Nubian archaeology—the continuity of culture. Nubia's archaeological phases are scattered like islands on any chronology chart, but each shares some important features with others. Some, such as chapels or stelae placed to the north of a tomb, appear from the beginning to the end of ancient civilization in Nubia.