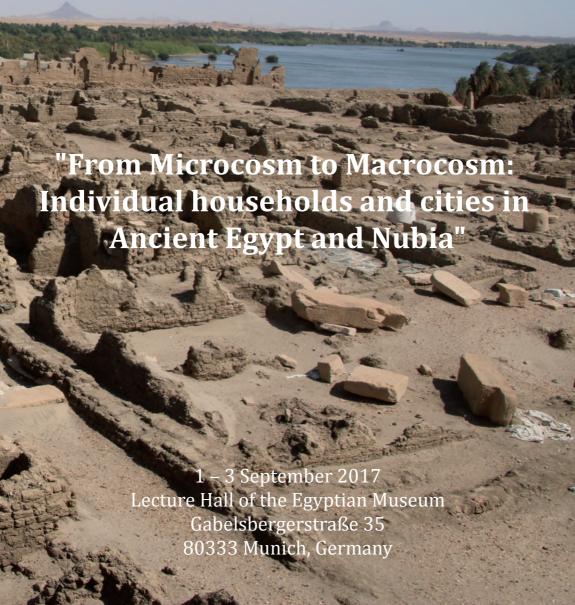






LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

AcrossBorders Conference 2017



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AcrossBorders Conference 2017

"From Microcosm to Macrocosm: Individual households and cities in Ancient Egypt and Nubia"

CONFERENCE PROGRAM

Friday, 1 September 2017

9:00-9:30am	Opening of the conference
9:30-10:15am	Nadine Möller & Gregory Marouard The development of two early urban centres in Upper Egypt during the 3 rd millennium BCE – The towns of Edfu and Dendara
10:15-11:00am	Elena A. A. Garcea The roots of individual household from the Khartoum Variant to the Pre-Kerma period on Sai Island
11:00-11:15am	Coffee break
11:15-12:00am	Elizabeth Bloxam & Ian Shaw Settlement and logistics at quarrying and mining sites in the Eastern Desert
12:00-12:45pm	Dietrich Klemm & Rosemarie Klemm Ancient gold mining and enigmatic settlements in Egypt and Nubia
12:45-1:30pm	Charles Bonnet Kerma and Dukki Gel: Evidences of impressive changes in the urban architecture at the beginning of the New Kingdom in Nubia

Lunch break 1:30-2:30pm 2:30-3:15pm **Manfred Bietak** Settlements of mixed societies: Tell el-Daba as a case study 3:15-4:00pm Miriam Müller From the Delta to the Second Cataract: Households in Egypt's borderlands in the late Middle Kingdom 4:00-4:45pm **Cornelius von Pilgrim** Beyond houses and temples: A building in the town of the late 17th and early 18th Dynasty at Elephantine Coffee break 4:45-5:00pm 5:00-5:45pm Anna Stevens City, cemetery and community at Amarna 5:45-6:30pm Peter Lacovara Everyman's home a castle: The design of the Tell el-Amarna villa 6:30pm Wrap-up of Day 1 Saturday, 2 September 2017 9:30-10:30am **Julia Budka** AcrossBorders: Five seasons of work in the pharaonic town, Sai Island 10:30-11:15am **Ingrid Adenstedt** The fortifications of the pharaonic town on Sai Island - A reinvestigation

11:15–11:30am Coffee break 11:30-12:15am Sayantani Neogi Geoarchaeological investigations at the hinterland of the New Kingdom town at Sai Island, Sudan **Sean Taylor** 12:15-1:00pm Micromorphology of the archaeological deposits at the New Kingdom town at Sai Island, Sudan Lunch break 1:00-2:00pm 2:00-2:45pm Iulia Budka Pots & people - Ceramics from Elephantine and Sai Island 2:45-3:30pm Giulia D'Ercole & Johannes Sterba From macro wares to micro fabrics and INAA compositional groups: The pottery corpus of the New Kingdom town on Sai Island 3:30-4:15pm Meg Gundlach Possessions, priorities, and production: The material culture of an Egyptian outpost Coffee break 4:15-4:45pm 4:45-5:30pm Manuela Lehmann Amara West: From finds to people 5:30-6:15pm Valentina Gasperini Amara West: A pottery overview 6:15pm Wrap-up of Day 2

Sunday, 3 September 2017

9:00-9:45	Bruce Williams <i>Egyptians and Nubians in the early New Kingdom and the Kushite background</i>
9:45-10:30	Stuart Tyson Smith The fortified settlement at Tombos and Egyptian colonial strategy in New Kingdom Nubia
10:30-11:15	Michele Buzon Exploring life and death in the Egyptian colonial cemetery at Tombos: Skeletal evidence of health, disease, and daily life
11:15-11:45	Coffee break
11:45-12:30	Julia Budka Tomb 26 in cemetery SAC5 on Sai Island
12:30-1:15pm	Andrea Stadlmayr & Marlies Wohlschlager Inside Tomb 26 – Anthropological findings in a New Kingdom tomb from Sai Island
12:30–1:15pm 1:15–2:15pm	Andrea Stadlmayr & Marlies Wohlschlager Inside Tomb 26 – Anthropological findings in a
	Andrea Stadlmayr & Marlies Wohlschlager Inside Tomb 26 – Anthropological findings in a New Kingdom tomb from Sai Island
1:15-2:15pm	Andrea Stadlmayr & Marlies Wohlschlager Inside Tomb 26 – Anthropological findings in a New Kingdom tomb from Sai Island Lunch break Kate Spence House, household, community and settlement at

4:15–5:00pm **Jördis Vieth**

Urbanism in Nubia and the New Kingdom temple

towns

5:00-5:45pm **Johannes Auenmüller**

New Kingdom towns in Upper Nubia – Sai, Soleb and Amara West in prosopographical perspective

5:45pm Final discussion and closing of the conference

6:30pm Reception

ABSTRACTS (in order of presentation)

The development of two early urban centres in Upper Egypt during the 3rd millennium BCE - The towns of Edfu and Dendara

Nadine Moeller (Oriental Institute, Chicago) & Gregory Marouard (Oriental Institute, Chicago)

Recent geomorphological and archaeological data from the recent field-work conducted at the ancient cities of Tell Edfu and Dendara provide new insights into the evolving landscape of the dynamic floodplain and its influence on the long-term development of these early urban centres. At both sites it has been possible to excavate specific areas of the settlement that had been founded directly on the natural sand and bedrock during the late Old Kingdom.

At Edfu, we now know that the Old Kingdom town gradually expanded westwards making best use of the flood-free zone, which can be seen by the newly excavated settlement quarter dating to the 5th Dynasty being situated in close proximity to the much later Ptolemaic temple. Further expansion of the town occurred during the end of the Old Kingdom/early First Intermediate Period, a time that has usually been associated with political and economic crises that might have been triggered by a brief climate change. By this time, the town had reached its maximum northern and western limit, which remained relatively stable for centuries to come.

The ancient city of Dendara also saw a major expansion at the end of the 3rd millennium BCE to the east of the temple enclosure during the First Intermediate Period, and the new fieldwork conducted at the site offers a glimpse of the organisation of this new town quarter in a previously unsettled area. These two examples, Tell Edfu and Dendara, are particularly interesting since this time frame corresponds to a politically troubled period that led to a fragmented state with several power centres. However, from an urban perspective, cities in southern Egypt seem to have seen a phase of expansion during this time. This paper will also further examine the layout and organisation of the respective town quarters at Edfu and Dendara.

The roots of individual households from the Khartoum Variant to the Pre-Kerma period on Sai Island

Elena A.A. Garcea (University of Cassino and Southern Latium)

Individual households drive their roots into prehistoric times. Sedentary settlement systems were a successful form of adaptation among Early Holocene hunter-gatherers in arid and semi-arid environments, such as Upper Nubia. In these areas, resources are usually patchy and limited and consequently their availability is often unpredictable. In order to cope with this stress, intensified exploitation, resource accumulation, and scheduled consumption proved to be successful responses to increase resource predictability. As these require considerable investments of capital, labour and skill, sedentism appeared to be more efficient than mobility for these communities.

On Sai Island, the earliest evidence of formal housing construction dates back to the mid-8th millennium BCE. The lower occupation at the Khartoum Variant Site 8-B-10C revealed a settlement with 75 post holes that could be attributed to habitation structures. In addition, the upper level indicated a more complex household system including hut floors, hearths, rubbish pits and 100 post holes. Geostatistical analyses on the intra-site organisation of the structures indicated differential uses and functions of the various areas and features of the site. The hut floors from Sai confirm the evidence for ancient individual households recorded in other parts of Nubia, such as a mud plastered floor at Site CPE 2016 and a hut at El-Barga near Kerma.

During the mid-6th millennium BCE, the acquisition of domestic livestock and the adoption of herding followed the Khartoum Variant Period associated with a hunting-gathering economy. Although herding is traditionally linked with nomadic settlement systems, recent evidence from the Abkan Period at Sai Island indicated that the shift to nomadism was a slow and gradual process. In fact, excavation at Site 8-B-76 brought to light a thickly stratified site with the superimposition of an Abkan unit above the Khartoum Variant unit, suggesting a continual use of the same site by the two communities and revealing a fairly sedentary settlement organisation of the early pastoralists. During this stage, domestic livestock were seemingly adopted as a supplement – not a substitute – of the foraging diet of wild products and therefore sedentism

and a high investment on household was still considered as a means of risk reduction rather than a limitation on wider access to grazing lands.

Finally, the Pre-Kerma Period, dating from the mid-4th millennium BCE, is well known for its storage facilities, another essential household component. On Sai Island, at least 134 granary pits of different shapes and sizes were discovered at Site 8-B-52A. Radiocarbon dates indicate that they occurred over a very long time, from about 3600 to 2600 BCE, suggesting that the site was not built in a single event, nor was it originally conceived as a large-scale facility. In Upper Nubia, comparable facilities were observed at Kerma, where some 280 granary pits were interspersed with other above-ground structures and surrounded by fences or walls, and at Khor Daoud, where 578 storage pits were brought to light.

Settlement and logistics at quarrying and mining sites in the Eastern Desert

Elizabeth Bloxam (University College London) & Ian Shaw (University of Liverpool)

Our case study for this paper is a complex set of archaeological remains, deriving from human activities and settlement, situated in a mountainous region of the central Wadi Hammamat in the Eastern Desert, 75 km east of Ouft in the Nile Valley and 75 km west of Ouseir on the Red Sea coast. This region is the source of rare high-quality minerals such as gold, copper, granite and greywacke, and therefore the natural and cultural environment presents us with a unique narrative of human endeavours to exploit these resources over a time depth of 6000 years from prehistory (4th millennium BCE) into the present day. Current research in Egyptian and Near Eastern archaeology has frequently questioned what the linkages are between increasing social complexity, craft specialisation, and the emergence of monumentality in the formation of early states. Yet, approaching these issues through studying the archaeological record at raw material sources is still an undervalued component of such research agendas, which, in general, have concentrated on analysing the built environment (e.g. pyramids, temples, statues).

The material remains left from these quarrying and mining activities comprise settlements, roads, ritual places, ceramics, mines and quarries, and are complemented by a virtually unparalleled 'rock cut' textual record across a corresponding time-depth. These remains are easily accessible as they lie scattered along either side of a 20-km stretch of the modern tarmac road. Although we might see the central region of the Wadi Hammamat today as remote, it is actually a 'peopled' landscape at the centre of considerable social networks, as it was in the past. Our paper will therefore examine the degree to which the social fabric of this landscape of procurement and production can be reconstructed and analysed on the basis of the survey results of the Wadi Hammamat Project since 2010.

Ancient gold mining and enigmatic settlements in Egypt and Nubia

Dietrich Klemm & Rosemarie Klemm (LMU Munich)

Settlements and single huts related to ancient gold-mining sites in both the Egyptian and Nubian Eastern Deserts are archaeologically largely unexplored. Only recently – probably caused by a new "gold rush" – was closer examination of individual places begun.

As gold mining operations in Egypt and Nubia were limited to periods of strong governmental power, mining settlements were only temporarily occupied, reflecting the strengths of the ruling authorities. Each group forced to mine in the desert needed appropriate accommodation. The resulting ancient settlement structures changed in the course of time according to the mining methods.

With respect to the various historical periods and artefacts, we may distinguish settlements from the Old and Middle Kingdoms, as well as a multitude from the New Kingdom. In the Eastern Desert of Egypt (excluding the Wadi Allaqi) occur quite a number of mining settlements from Ptolemaic times, mainly exploiting older New Kingdom sites. During Kushite times, reoccupation of New Kingdom mining sites in Nubia seems to have taken place.

Finally, the Eastern Desert in Egypt and predominantly in Nubia was overcrowded by Early Arab mining exertions from the 9th to 13th centuries CE. Whereas the many Early Arab settlements are always associated with recognisable gold production sites, one finds in these desert regions quite a number of enigmatic village structures with no direct relation to gold mining, but more or less within a larger gold mining region. Until now, no convincing utilisation of these structures is known. However, these might be depository warehouses and distribution centres to support men and the numerous camels.

Kerma and Dukki Gel: Evidences of impressive changes in the urban architecture at the beginning of the New Kingdom in Nubia

Charles Bonnet (Mission archéologique suisse au Soudan, Université de Neuchâtel)

Settlements of mixed societies: Tell el-Daba as a case study

Manfred Bietak (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

The town of Avaris/Tell el-Dab'a is a paradigm that Ancient Egyptian societies were composed of heterogeneous ethnic elements. This is particularly true for settlements at border regions, which can be considered as contact zones. It is, however, difficult to assess the different ethnicities from archaeological material alone; one has to find ethnicity markers and has also to consider alternative interpretations.

Avaris, the capital of the Hyksos, developed from an Egyptian town of the Middle Kingdom to a multi-ethnic community under dominance of settlers originating from the Near East. Recently, it was possible to trace the quarter of the Egyptian community in the north of the town, in one of the oldest parts of the settlement at 'Ezbet Rushdy. It is remarkable that the Egyptian core group was even able to enlarge its settling ground during the Hyksos Period at the expense of the Amorite community.

From the time of the 14th Dynasty onwards different Nubian elements started to make their appearance. For example, open forms of their distinct pottery, which could not be used as containers of imports, demand the physical presence of their producers. Also local products of Nubian pottery endorse such an assumption. The first Nubians were users of Kerma-pottery. During the Hyksos Period carriers of another Nubian culture, which cannot yet be more specifically defined, show up. In the New Kingdom one can observe again Kerma pottery amongst settlement waste. Where the Nubians settled within the town is still not yet clear. They seem to appear in the vicinity of palaces. In the New Kingdom they may have lived in an open camp, but for this assumption we still lack firm evidence.

At the same time the Nubians showed their first presence in Avaris, we may also have some evidence of limited Cypriot presence. Locally made Middle Cypriot pottery, produced with Cypriot ceramic technology, is a sign that there may have been a small community from this island in Avaris. They seem to appear in a time when Egypt could not uphold their own copper mining industry at Sinai and the Red Sea and may have turned to Cyprus.

One has to ask if the situation at Avaris is not also mirrored under alternative circumstances in the borderland of Egyptian and Nubian communities of the South, and if other elements coming from the Levant had not also made a modest appearance in the archaeological context. The next question is why people from remote origins migrated to distant borderlands and how they were integrated in such communities. Another question is, of course, how tolerant were the Egyptians and their neighbours to each other.

From the Delta to the Second Cataract: Households at Avaris and Uronarti in the late Middle Kingdom

Miriam Müller (Leiden University)

With now more than 50 years of renewed interest and research in Egyptian settlement archaeology and domestic architecture, a much larger data set can be considered for the study of everyday life, individual households and communities in Egypt and Nubia. Long-term excavations have uncovered a large sample of houses and neighbourhoods from many different regions and periods as well as settlement types. The long-held, one-sided view of Egyptian urbanism based on special purpose cities and villages such as Deir el-Medina and Amarna can now be put into perspective with newly excavated larger and smaller settlements from the core and the periphery of the Egyptian sphere of influence.

This paper aims to examine similarities and differences in domestic architecture and settlement structure in Egypt's borderlands. Based on two very different sites inhabited from the Middle Kingdom to the Second Intermediate Period – Avaris (Tell el-Dab'a) in the Eastern Nile Delta and Uronarti at the Second Cataract in Nubia, modern-day Sudan – an investigation of concepts in domestic architecture will be undertaken. The two sites could not be more different, with one of the largest cities at the north-eastern border, originally founded as an Egyptian colony and then developed into a trade hub and future capital of the Asiatic Hyksos rulers and the other an Egyptian fortress town built on former foreign territory beyond the southern border of Egypt. It will nevertheless be possible to demonstrate a general perception of the function and use of domestic architecture that was inherent to the Egyptian worldview and often copied by new settlers of native and foreign descent in Egypt's borderlands.

Beyond houses and temples: A building in the town of the late 17th and early 18th Dynasty at Elephantine

Cornelius von Pilgrim (Swiss Institute, Cairo)

Amongst the main challenges in urban archaeology is the identification of the actual use of individual rooms or entire buildings. Many activities of daily life do not leave reliable traces to determine any specific function and possible traces may have been removed by later activities or by a later redesign. Furthermore, many rooms in domestic buildings were predominantly used in a multi-functional way. Keeping that in mind, this paper aims to present the final results of recent excavations conducted by the Swiss Institute at Elephantine. The work was realised in close cooperation with the ERC project AcrossBorders and focuses on an extremely well preserved building (House 55) of the late 17th and early 18th Dynasty located to the south of the Heqaib Sanctuary.

The discovery of graffiti-like polychrome paintings on ordinary mud-plaster in the rear rooms of the house, two stelae and a small statuette raised the suspicion that House 55 may have initially been built as a sanctuary in the wider tradition of the Heqaib Sanctuary. However, after the full completion of the excavation and a meticulous examination of the extensive sequence of floors and soil deposits, the building may be addressed as a multi-functional workshop. The possible variety of activities and crafts will be discussed on the basis of finds and architectural characteristics as well as on the basis of distinctive traces in floors and soil deposits in particular.

City, cemetery and community at Amarna

Anna Stevens (University of Cambridge)

For the past 12 years, the Amarna Project has been investigating the non-elite cemeteries of ancient *Akhetaten*, with over 500 graves now excavated from two large burial grounds at the North and South Tombs. The work provides a rich assemblage of human remains that contributes to the study of health and quality of life in ancient Egypt, but simultaneously a remarkable social dataset that can be tied to its broader urban environment. The cemeteries display social patterning that conforms in certain aspects to that visible in the city plans and diverges in others. This paper will explore how settlement and cemetery data can be integrated at Amarna, particularly through an exploration of urban communities and networks, to develop a multi-layered understanding of *Akhetaten* as a social city.

Everyman's home a castle: The design of the Tell el-Amarna villa

Peter Lacovara (Michael C. Carlos Museum, Emory University)

Most discussions of domestic architecture in ancient Egypt have concentrated on the remains from Tell el-Amarna. The "standard Amarna villa" has been cited in innumerable publications as the quintessential pre-Roman example of domestic architecture from the Mediterranean world. One might postulate, however, that Tell el-Amarna was unique not only in its art and temple architecture, but also in the houses of the populace. Contrary to this view, Fairman has suggested that "the Amarna house was fully in keeping with tradition," and more recently Kate Spence has reiterated this view. Nevertheless, a review of the extant data on domestic architecture in ancient Egypt makes us question the applicability of the Amarna "villas" as the paradigm of pharaonic urban dwellings.

As we will see, none of the plans of dwellings from Egyptian settlements, both from the New Kingdom and other time periods show the uniformity found at Tell el-Amarna. While Ricke sought to devise an evolutionary progression that led ultimately to the development of the "standard Amarna villa," in fact, we can see that the Amarna houses are not a natural development in vernacular building, but the result of a uniform design imposed by the city planners, and one adapted from the plans of earlier royal palaces. In this aspect, Tell el-Amarna represents the culmination of the pre-planned royal city of the New Kingdom and the imposition of the state in designing almost every aspect of this unique community.

AcrossBorders: Five seasons of work in the pharaonic town, Sai Island

Julia Budka (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

The European Research Council AcrossBorders project has conducted archaeological fieldwork on the major New Kingdom sites of Sai Island from 2013 until 2017. Archaeological excavations in the pharaonic town and pyramid cemetery SAC5 were complemented with kite aerial photography, structure from motion approaches, terrestrial 3D laser scans, geoarchaeological surveys, micromorphological soil sampling and various archaeometric analyses of diverse materials. This paper will present the results from fieldwork in the town area. Three new sectors in previously unexplored parts – SAV1 West, SAV1 East and a small test excavation in the northeastern corner of the city (SAV1 Northeast) – were excavated by AcrossBorders and yielded important stratigraphic data for reconstructing the evolution of the site. With AcrossBorders' recent fieldwork, the town plan can be updated and fresh remarks on the internal structure and building phases are possible.

The fortifications of the pharaonic town on Sai Island - A reinvestigation

Ingrid Adenstedt (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Portions of the substantial mud brick enclosure wall of Sai have repeatedly been investigated in the past, beginning with M. Azim's excavations in the 1970s up to the recent research by the AcrossBorders project in the last years. As one of the most important results of this research, the exact outline of the settlement could be established, placing the eastern enclosure wall further to the west than originally assumed. In the course of the building research undertaken in the years 2013 and 2014, a 3D reconstruction of the pharaonic settlement was carried out, presenting the fortifications of the town as a very strict structure, rectangular in shape and with protruding bastions at regular distances on all four sides of the wall.

However, the most recent excavations at SAV1 West and SAV1 Northeast have shown some discrepancies with this idealised reconstructed form that call for a more thorough investigation of all the evidence available for the enclosure wall. By taking a closer look at all excavation results and with comparison to other sites in Nubia and Egypt, the remaining open questions concerning the city wall shall be clarified, perhaps resulting in a slightly differing reconstruction of the fortifications on Sai Island.

Geoarchaeological investigations at the hinterland of the New Kingdom town at Sai Island, Sudan

Sayantani Neogi (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

This paper presents the results of the geoarchaeological investigation conducted in and around the New Kingdom town at Sai Island, Sudan as a part of the AcrossBorders Project. During the course of this study, three-fold research has been undertaken to shed light on the question of a possible harbour/landing ground in proximity to the town, provenance the source of the sandstones used in the temple and to assess the general nature of the land surface and environment prior to the establishment of the town. Furthermore, did these factors influence the choice for the location?

In order to understand whether or not there was a harbour during the pharaonic occupation, a thorough coring in transect was undertaken in the riverine alluvial platform adjacent to the town. Though the survey did not reveal the presence of any potential harbour, the nature of the soil and the adjacent cliff suggest, however, that this place was used as a landing ground, sheltered by the steep sandstone cliffs.

In addition, petrographic analysis of sandstone thin-sections from the island has been instrumental in identifying the mechanical characteristics of different grades of the sandstones and therefore ascertaining their sources. This study has shown that the sandstone types occurring on-site, including the whitish-building material of the pharaonic temple of Sai, are mostly of local sources. In order to place the archaeological site in its environmental context, block micromorphological samples were collected from the environs of the town in locations thought to belong to the land surface prior to the establishment of the settlement during the mid-2nd millennium BCE. A study of the thin sections made from the block samples has been able to establish that alluvium and gravels from an ancient Nile paleo-channel and former Nile terrace were the underlying geological context for the establishment of the town.

Micromorphology of the archaeological deposits at the New Kingdom town at Sai Island, Sudan

Sean Taylor (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

The important New Kingdom settlement at Sai Island presents a complex stratigraphic archaeological record. These anthropogenic sediments reflect not only the use life of the buildings and spaces between but also the post-depositional processes that serve to complicate the archaeological record.

This paper presents the results of the geoarchaeological investigations of anthropogenic sediment sequences. The on-site micromorphology is considered along with off-site geoarchaeological data sets. These two strands of data have been compared and contrasted to provide an understanding of the site formation processes. These have helped to interpret the nature of on-site activities during the New Kingdom.

Robust data from micromorphological analyses have revealed important results about archaeological formation processes in an arid environment. There is evidence for lengthy periods of accumulation history on-site, and the identification within the sampled sequences of several activity areas within buildings and in open spaces. There is also evidence for crop-processing and midden areas interrupted by occasional disturbed layers. Several structures are partially filled with settlement-derived debris and with evident periods of abandonments.

The deposits will be characterised and the paper will show how these give inferences to the nature of activities in the town. An important component for the archaeological deposits is derived from organic matter, which is understood directly through the observance of lignified plant tissues and fragments of humified organics or from charcoal and ash. The taphonomy and sedimentological relationships between the organic and mineral components and the archaeological data provides a better understanding of human activities on the New Kingdom town of Sai.

Pots & people - Ceramics from Elephantine and Sai Island

Julia Budka (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

One of the main goals of the AcrossBorders project is reconstructing life on Sai Island in Nubia during the New Kingdom according to the material evidence. The most numerous finds to be considered for this task on settlement sites like Sai are thousands of potsherds and ceramic vessels attesting to the use, function and occupants of the ancient towns.

In general, New Kingdom pottery in Nubia is very similar to contemporary material in Egypt. However, a detailed study comparing sites situated in both Nubia and Egypt has not been conducted before and is now for the first time undertaken within the framework of AcrossBorders. The ceramic data from the New Kingdom town of Sai is currently being analysed and compared to the pottery corpora from the town of Elephantine, situated in Egypt. In this pottery analysis, a particular focus is laid on differences and similarities between local products and imported pieces, including the very significant appearance of hybrid types – e.g. Egyptian types made of Nubian fabrics or with Nubian surface treatment.

The pottery analysis from New Kingdom Sai, in conjunction with the processing of the material from Elephantine, allows for proposing some new tentative thoughts about the occupants of Sai. From the earliest strata onwards, Nubian ceramics appear together with imported Egyptian wares and locally wheel-made products. Since the Nubian pots are the minority, it seems safe to assume that the Egyptian style town was first occupied by Egyptians. However, the production of hybrid types of pottery illustrates that Egyptians and Nubians lived and worked side by side, combining aspects of both cultures. Although it comes as no surprise that within a colonial Egyptian site like Sai the Egyptian appearance is dominant, a local substratum is traceable as well. The pottery attests to people who identified themselves primarily as Egyptian officials and occupants of an Egyptian site, but may nevertheless have had family ties in Nubia and derive from a local group with a specific cultural identity that was never completely abandoned.

From macro wares to micro fabrics and INAA compositional groups: The pottery corpus of the New Kingdom town on Sai Island (Northern Sudan)

Giulia D'Ercole (Across Borders, LMU Munich) & Johannes H. Sterba (Technical University Vienna)

The pharaonic pottery corpus of the New Kingdom town on Sai Island (northern Sudan) consists of thousands of sherds and vessels made of different fabrics and manufactured according to different traditions and recipes. The majority of them are Nile clay wares, either 'Egyptian-style' types wheel-made after the Egyptian fashion and technological style, or 'Nubian-style' types hand-made with typical Nubian decorations and technological features. The group of Nile clay wares also includes 'Real-Egyptian' vessels, manufactured in Egypt and subsequently imported to Sudan. Finally, other imported wares from Egypt itself (i.e., 'Marl clays' and 'Oasis wares') and from external regions (Levantine wares) have been documented at the site.

Between 2013 and 2015, 260 ceramic samples (SAV/S 01–260) were taken from the pharaonic town sectors SAV1 North, East and West and submitted to archaeometric laboratory analyses. Of these, over 100 were Nile clay wares. All samples underwent Instrumental Neutron Activation Analysis (INAA). Optical Microscopy (OM) was used on 84 of these samples.

INAA analysis, with the application of the multivariate statistical filter proposed by Mommsen, succeeded in separating the samples in different compositional groups, whose largest is Group 1 including almost all of the Nile clay wares. Within the remainder of the samples, eight additional groups were identified that correspond to and supplement the macroscopic identification. Within Group 1, which is chemically very homogeneous, specific elements allowed a separation between 'Egyptian-style', 'Nubian-style' and 'Real-Egyptian' samples, although a certain amount of overlap was found.

Observations on thin sections (OM) were consistent with the chemical results and confirmed that the largest group of Nile clay wares is strongly homogeneous also in its petrography. In spite of this, different micro fabrics were recognised within the Nubian and the Egyptian (local and not) samples. These petrographic fabrics well mirror the

macro wares identified in the field and point to a technological variability and a compresence of different recipes in the use of Nile silt clays.

Possessions, priorities, and production: The material culture of an Egyptian outpost

Meg Gundlach (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

The comparative value of material culture for the study of contemporary settlement sites was a cornerstone of the AcrossBorders Project. With sites at both Sai Island and Elephantine, working on both sides of the early New Kingdom Nubian border raises questions of production, trade, and local innovation. Furthermore, as an established Egyptian outpost, the imported goods of the earliest residents of the town at Sai Island give an important insight into their priorities and personal piety. This talk will present the resulting finds from the AcrossBorders excavations, outlining the types of material culture recovered from both sites and highlighting the themes of study that may be identified within them.

Amara West: From finds to people

Manuela Lehmann (British Museum, London)

The study and research of the objects from 10 years of excavation in the pharaonic town of Amara West (c. 1300–1070 BCE) considers both "funerary" and "settlement" artefacts as part of the same urban sphere, an approach that remains relatively rare in the Nile Valley. This paper will present preliminary findings on the wood, ivory, stone and faience artefacts made and/or used by the inhabitants. This assemblage offers the potential to explore overlapping traditions of different origins and cultural entanglement, self-sufficiency vs. external supply, trade patterns, local craft production and beliefs.

Amara West: A pottery overview

Valentina Gasperini (British Museum, London)

Since 2008, the British Museum has excavated several sectors of the New Kingdom town of Amara West: three urban districts (E13 and D13 inside the walls, and the extramural Western Suburb) and two cemeteries (C and D). Ceramic remains from these contexts, mainly dated to the Ramesside Period, can inform our understanding of trade exchanges between Egypt and Nubia, supply routes and to a certain extent cultural entanglement between the local Nubian population and the Egyptians. as well as the dynamic between local identity versus foreign influences. New studies on ceramic fabrics recognised at the site indicate that the settlement was deeply connected to the major regional and interregional trade routes of the Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age, while the town also received supplies of products from more peripheral areas, such as Western Desert Oases and the Eastern Delta. Statistical studies of the chronological distribution of local Nubian ware and imports shed new light on the interconnection between these two communities across the chronological development of the settlement. While the aim of this paper is to present the preliminary results of the analysis of the ceramic materials excavated at the site, the pottery from extramural house D11.2 will be used as a case-study to illustrate some of these research themes.

Egyptians and Nubians in the early New Kingdom and the Kushite background

Bruce Williams (University of Chicago)

As Egyptian power extended upstream in Nubia in the early New Kingdom. Egyptian customs appeared in places and ways not seen before becoming so dominant that cemeteries and known settlements do not differ substantially from their provincial counterparts in Egypt itself. This Egyptianisation has been affirmed and denied, or at least disparaged, and variously attributed to conversion or immigration. While the depth to which Egyptian culture penetrated northern Nubia is fairly clear, the transition has been a matter of some confusion, partly due to the misdating of some contexts and probable misidentification of others. Some transitional contexts can be identified, for example at Serra East, where rulers of Teh-Khet were first located, and at Adindan, where New Kingdom burials continue a C-Group cemetery. These serve as pointers to identify continuing Nubian sites, Nubian sites that may have belonged to new Nubian immigrants, sites belonging to Egyptians and Nubians who more thoroughly adopted Egyptian culture. Some features of this geopolitical and geo-social change may be traceable in the preceding Kerma or Second Intermediate Period and may actually have paved the way for rapid cultural change with the Egyptian conquest.

The fortified settlement at Tombos and Egyptian colonial strategy in New Kingdom Nubia

Stuart Tyson Smith (University of California, Santa Barbara)

In c. 1502 BCE, Thutmose I completed the conquest of Kush, incorporating Nubia into an extensive empire that would last through the end of the New Kingdom. He ordered that a number of commemorative inscriptions be placed on granite outcrops at Tombos. As argued by Robert Morkot and followed by myself, this symbolically marked an important internal boundary within Egypt's new Nubian empire at the headwaters of the third cataract. North of this boundary, colonisation took the form of newly established temple-centred towns.

As early as our first field season in 2000, we identified the likely location of the ancient colony as lying beneath the modern village of Tombos, confirmed by tests in 2002 and 2013. From 2015–17, we uncovered and traced the outline of a large fortification consisting of a mud brick lined ditch or dry moat enclosing an area of over 200 by 200 metres, at least four hectares. Combining evidence from the settlement area and cemetery, this paper discusses the implications of such a large fortification and its potential role in the New Kingdom Empire, including changes in imperial strategy and lived experience over time. A comparison with Lower Nubian colonial settlements like Askut will highlight regional and diachronic differentiation within the empire, and allow for an assessment of intercultural interaction and the colony's involvement in the larger political economy of the Late Bronze Age.

Exploring life and death in the Egyptian colonial cemetery at Tombos: Skeletal evidence of health, disease, and daily life

Michele R. Buzon (Purdue University, West Lafayette)

Excavations since 2000 at the cemetery associated with the New Kingdom Tombos fortified settlement have produced burials from a variety of grave structures and mortuary practices using both Egyptian and Nubian traditions. Earlier work at Tombos focused on the underground chamber tombs associated with the 'middle-class' component of the site, while more recent excavations have explored numerous elite pyramid structures. Individuals of all ages were buried with grave goods, including ceramics and jewellery. Work in these various areas has produced skeletal remains that provide important new information about the inhabitants of this colonial town, including Egyptians, local Nubians and their descendants.

The composition of the population at Tombos has been explored through the identification of first generation immigrants using strontium isotope analysis (87Sr/86Sr), which has highlighted the changing patterns of immigration over time. Expansion of the skeletal sample into various socioeconomic, ethnic, and age subgroups allows for a more nuanced examination of life experiences with regard to health, disease, physical activity and impairment for the Tombos inhabitants. While many of the adult individuals show few signs of ill health, newly excavated juvenile individuals indicate that some children experienced high levels of physiological stress (infectious disease and/or nutritional deficiency) affecting their survival. Many of the adults at Tombos were of advanced age at death (60+) and while most showed few signs of poor health, strenuous physical activity, or injuries, some lived with healed physical impairments that would have affected their daily functions. Paleopathological analyses indicate the possible presence of two individuals whose skeletons appear to show signs of dwarfism. This paper will discuss the record of life experiences in the skeletal remains at Tombos and comparatively evaluate health and lifeways within the context of contemporary Nile Valley groups.

Tomb 26 in cemetery SAC5 on Sai Island

Julia Budka (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

Tomb 26 in Cemetery SAC5 was discovered by AcrossBorders in 2015. It yielded several burials from the mid to late 18th Dynasty with rich funerary equipment, including family members of a master of gold workers, the Egyptian officials involved in gold exploitation in Upper Nubia. As a family tomb, Tomb 26 has much potential to illustrate the status and corresponding material culture traceable for lower and medium-ranked individuals from Thutmoside times onwards. All in all, Tomb 26 and its associated finds are of prime significance for understanding life on New Kingdom Sai.

Inside Tomb 26 - Anthropological findings in a New Kingdom tomb from Sai Island

Andrea Stadlmayr (Museum of Natural History, Vienna) & Marlies Wohlschlager (Austrian Academy of Sciences, Vienna)

Archaeological excavation of Tomb 26 in the New Kingdom cemetery on Sai Island, Sudan, was conducted between 2015 and 2017. The three chambers discovered within the tomb revealed a range of human burials, as well as dislocated skeletal elements. Based on these remains, we present the minimum number of individuals (MNI) in the tomb and shed some more light on the life histories of the goldsmith *Khnummose* and the neighbouring individual from Feature 6, since they undoubtedly represent the main burials of Tomb 26. In addition, we will also discuss selected pathological conditions of the *in situ* burials from Features 4 and 5.

House, household, community and settlement at Sesebi

Kate Spence (University of Cambridge)

Excavations at Sesebi in the 1930s revealed evidence for a significant number of houses for the community living and working at the site. The houses were left exposed and were unfortunately too badly denuded for further archaeological work to take place at the site. However, an assessment of the houses and town can be made on the basis of the original excavation records, and in comparison with contemporary housing at Amarna. This paper makes a preliminary assessment.

Beyond imperial power and town planning: An experiential perspective from Amara West

Neal Spencer (British Museum, London)

The pharaonic towns of New Kingdom Nubia have traditionally been researched within a framework of pharaonic control, resource extraction and even acculturation, with the formal temples, inscriptions and elite funerary monuments (and associated assemblages) attracting considerable attention. The last 15 years has seen the phenomenon of cultural entanglement foregrounded through work at a number of sites (notably Tombos, also Amara West, Sesebi, Sai). This paper will build on that work and seek to provide often forgotten perspectives – those of the inhabitants – on the urban experience of the New Kingdom colony.

Across 10 years of research fieldwork at Amara West undertaken by the British Museum, excavations have focused upon two housing areas, one intramural, the other beyond the town walls, complemented by work in two burial grounds across a now-dry river channel. The resulting detailed understanding of the built environment within which the inhabitants lived, and particularly how that was transformed across over two centuries of occupation, can be placed within the context of a changing natural environment. Research outcomes from across a multidisciplinary team of specialists – researching human, animal and plant remains, the geoarchaeology and micromorphology of living spaces, and investigating metal, ceramic and pigment technologies – not only contribute towards understanding functions, activities and chronological changes within the town, but can be utilised as proxies for aspects of ancient lives, and thereafter allow an incomplete, but very informative. experiential perspective on the people themselves (inhabitants/households/communities).

Urbanism in Nubia and the New Kingdom temple towns

Jördis Vieth (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

For more than 50 years, we have known in great detail the settlement structures that were built by the Egyptians in Nubia in the New Kingdom. These structures were usually referred to as "temple towns", apparently because of still standing Egyptian stone temples as the most striking features. The temple town sites have been mainly discussed in light of Egyptian imperialism and colonialism and were seen as manifestations of Egyptian presence in Nubia. While the description and perception of the Egyptian-Nubian relationship and the theoretical approach behind it changed from imperial and colonial to elite emulation and cultural entanglement, the supposed concept of the temple towns – as testimonial and archaeological evidence of this relationship – is still hard to identify.

It is argued that one crucial point may be the absorption of actually different site categories (e.g. fortress-site, town-site, temple-site, sites only known from written sources) under one theme – the temple town. The need for separation is implicitly reflected in the often additional paraphrasing of the term (e.g. fortress temple town, temple-centred town, newly established temple town, fortified town, walled town) and shows at the same moment how opinions and perceptions of the concept temple town differ.

To re-open the discussion of a potential concept of the temple town or even its deconstruction, a settlement/landscape archaeological point of view will be engaged to address the issues of definition, terminology and typology by means of spatial pattern analysis, site typology and landscape analysis to hopefully contribute to a better understanding of the nature of the Egyptian presence in New Kingdom Nubia.

New Kingdom towns in Upper Nubia – Sai, Soleb and Amara West in prosopographical perspective

Johannes Auenmüller (AcrossBorders, LMU Munich)

Prosopography as a scientific method, scholarly technique and research approach allows scholars to shed light onto the social fabric and historical development of certain populations, based on epigraphic evidence. Understood as the "investigation of the common background characteristics of a group of actors in history by means of a collective study of their lives" (Stone 1971), I will use and apply prosopography to examine three pharaonic towns in Upper Nubia – Sai, Soleb and Amara West – in order to assess and discuss the social fabric of these towns and their social structural commonalities and differences. The basis for the study is local belonging expressed by archaeological and textual evidence from these three sites and their environs.

Keeping in mind that only a specific group, the social elite, can be evaluated in terms of prosopography, the following questions shall, however, be asked: Which people are attested in these cities in which contexts? What do these contexts say about the function and role of these people? What can we learn about the social and functional differentiation of the cities' inhabitants? And finally, is the social fabric of Sai – as seen through prosopographical data and compared with Soleb and Amara West – typical for a New Kingdom town in Upper Nubia?

(Stone 1971: L. Stone, Prosopography, in: Daedalus 100.1, 46–79)

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