

# ORIENTALIA LOVANIENSIA ANALECTA

## Nubian Archaeology in the XXIst Century

edited by  
MATTHIEU HONEGGER





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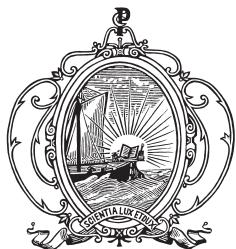
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MATTHIEU HONEGGER



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## PREFACE

The four-yearly International Congress of the Society for Nubian Studies took place from 1st to 6th September 2014 at the Humanities Faculty of the University of Neuchâtel. This is currently the most important scientific meeting on the archaeology and the ancient history of Nubia. Its importance was increased by the cancellation of the 2012 Congress of Meroitic Studies, which was due to take place in Egypt, so that Neuchâtel integrated the participants of Meroitic Studies. Almost 300 people participated at the Neuchâtel Congress, some 40 of which came from the Sudan and Egypt. More than 20 nationalities were represented. The number of communications totalled 19 in plenary sessions (mornings), 185 communications in parallel sessions (6 parallel sessions were organised in the afternoons) and 14 posters.

Building on the synergy with the Congress, an exhibition untitled ‘Aux origines des pharaons noirs: 10’000 ans d’archéologie en Nubie’ opened on 2nd September 2014 at the Laténium Museum in Neuchâtel. It presented a reconstitution of the principal stages in the evolution of Nubian society over a period of 10.000 years, from the establishment of the first sedentary settlements, via the Kingdom of Kerma, to end with the discovery of the Black Pharos, symbols of the rebirth of Nubian royalty and the point of departure for the creation of the Kerma Museum. The exhibition has occupied two halls in a space of 500 square metres in which almost 300 objects were put on show: 180 of which came from Sudan. Its inauguration, which coincided with the start of the International Congress of the Society for Nubian Studies, brought together almost 500 people, amongst which several personalities from the Swiss political and academic spheres (Secretary of State for Education, Research and Innovation (SERI), rector of the University of Neuchâtel, Neuchâtel State Counsellor responsible for culture), Sudanese representatives (Minister for Culture, Director of the Sudan National Museum, University professors and researchers) and representatives from Foreign Affairs, including the current and past Swiss ambassadors in Khartoum.

The Proceedings of the 13th International Conference for Nubian Studies contains 95 peer-reviewed

papers distributed in 13 chronological or thematic sections, evidencing the breadth of subjects covered. The Main Papers section contains 13 contributions presenting syntheses or important results, while the other sections have usually less than 10 papers. With 20 papers, the Meroitic Section is the largest one, a situation which can be explained by the cancellation of the 2012 Congress of Meroitic Studies.

The subjects treated in these proceedings are a reflexion of the scientific and cultural heritage issues facing Nubian archaeology. It is today confronted with the numerous challenges of the 21st century, which include the coordination between economic development and the protection of the environment and heritage, maintaining and encouraging preventive archaeology, as well as the valorisation of sites in the light of growing public interest. Since the salvage archaeological work at the 4th Cataract, which was largely covered in the Proceedings of the previous Nubian Studies Conference held at the British Museum, archaeological activities in the Sudan have been considerably stimulated by the Qatar-Sudan Archaeological Project (QSAP) which since 2011 supports 41 sudanese and international missions, not only in the field and areas of research, but also project involving the valorisation of archaeological sites. A not inconsiderable number of contributions to the present volume therefore logically come from teams supported by the QSAP, which are additional to those of other researchers and missions active in Nubia.

Matthieu Honegger, Neuchâtel, April 2018



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event. Other than that, the Foundation supported the work of preparation of the Proceedings (communication with the authors, English writing corrections and translation, text and images checking for conformity to guidelines, layout).

Many colleagues, scholars and students participated in the organisation of the Congress and the process of publishing the Proceedings. We wish to extend our warm appreciation for their help.

### **Committe of the organisation of the Conference:**

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