

Between the Cataracts.

Proceedings of the 11th International Conference for Nubian Studies,
Warsaw University, 27 August–2 October 2006

2.1. Main Papers – due out Jan.2008

The scale of archaeological undertakings in Nubian archaeology in the past ten years and the sheer amount of new data that have been obtained, spanning Nubian heritage from the Paleolithic to the Funj Sultanate of Sinnar, have spurred a revision of many long-held views and a tackling of new perspectives in Ancient Nubian studies. The Proceedings of the 11th International Conference of the Society of Nubian Studies in Warsaw bring a timely record of the newest research into the ancient history and archaeology of Nubia, the territories of the Nile Valley and the deserts south of the first cataract (i.e., southern Egypt and northern Sudan). The papers, published in two parts, cover diverse aspects of research from reports on recent excavations, through documentary studies and insightful analyses of Nubian society, architecture and art.

Part one, comprising papers by 17 researchers, scholars in Nubian Studies, constitutes a compact summary of long-term research on the main centers of Nubian civilization and a broader historical reflection, taking into account also the influence of external factors on the situation in Nubia. A review of the archaeological work and research conducted in 2002-2006 is provided by D.A. Welsby. Site overviews include Wadi Howar (F. Jesse), Dokki Gel (Ch. Bonnet, D. Valbelle), Tombos (S.T. Smith), Sedeinga (C. Berger-el Naggar), Gebel Barkal (A. Roccati), Musawwarat es Sufra (S. Wenig), **Meroe** (K. Grzymski), Qasr Ibrim (P. Rose), Dongola (S. Jakobielski), Banganarti (B. Żurawski, A. Łajtar). Moreover, W.Y. Adams reviews current scholarship into Nubian society, L. Török discusses the rise of the segmentarian state, and C. Rilly proposes a revolutionary look at ethnicity in Nubia. W. Godlewski focuses on aspects of royal and episcopal iconography in Christian Nubian wall paintings. T. Kendall searches into the astronomical meaning of Gebel Barkal which prompted Taharka to locate his tomb site there.

Part two presents 60 plus papers read at the conference, including issues related to the Fourth Cataract salvage effort of recent years, as well as a record of two panel discussions devoted to the topics of official and vernacular languages in the Nubian Kingdoms and representations of rulers and religious ceremony inside sacral buildings.