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News & Notes

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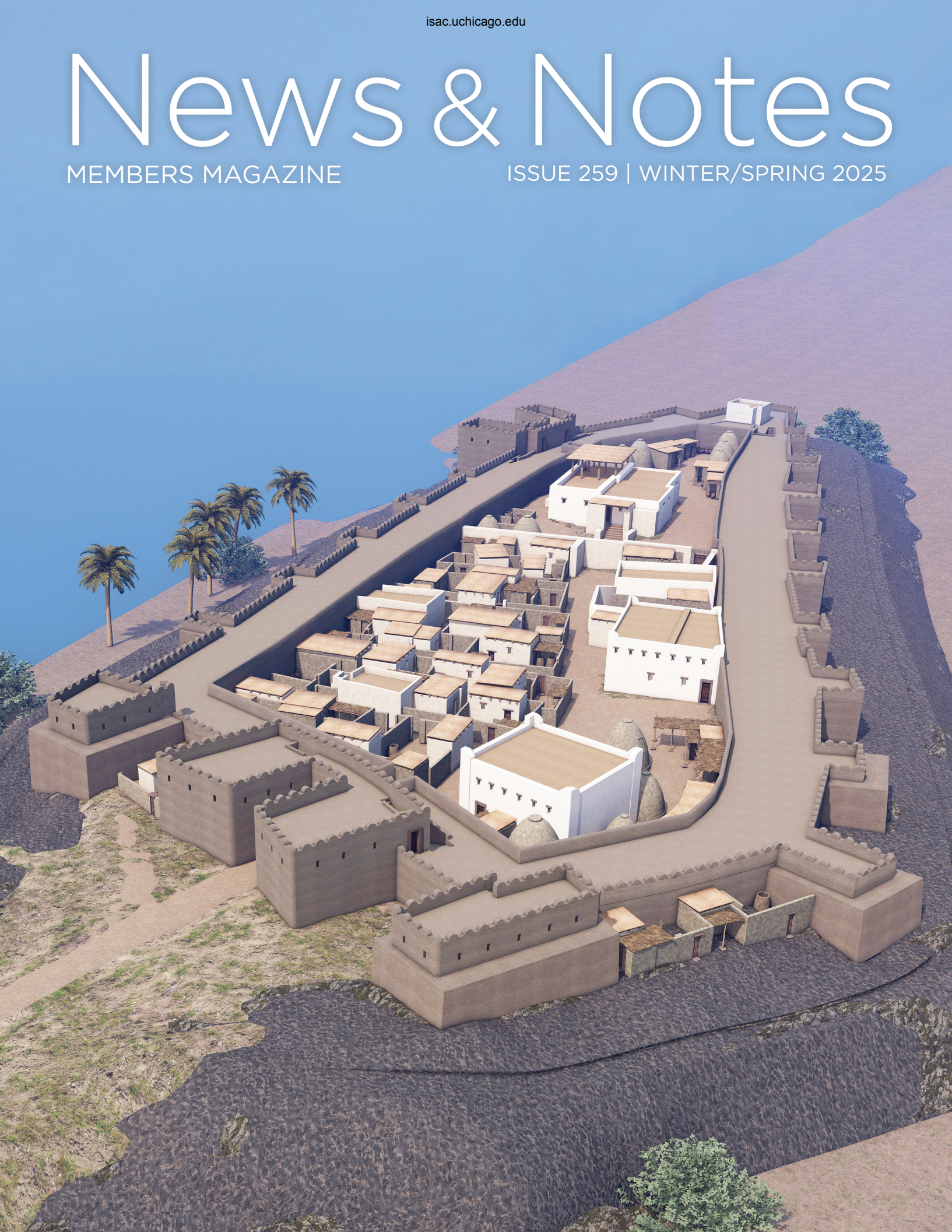

IN THIS ISSUE

INSTITUTE FOR THE STUDY OF ANCIENT CULTURES

1155 EAST 58TH STREET
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60637

WEBSITE
isac.uchicago.edu

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION
773.702.9513
isac-membership@uchicago.edu

MUSEUM INFORMATION/HOURS
isac.uchicago.edu/museum-exhibits

MUSEUM SHOP
773.702.9510
isac-suq@uchicago.edu

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
773.702.9514
isac-administration@uchicago.edu

CREDITS

EDITORS: Brad Lenz, Emily Smith, Rebecca Cain, Drew Baumann, and Tasha Vorderstrasse

DESIGNER: Rebecca Cain

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ON THE COVER: 3D reconstruction of Dorginarti by Nadejda Rechetnikova

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

The year 2025 is off to a turbulent start, and I am often asked by ISAC members how the dramatic developments and changes occurring in the US federal government and its programs might affect ISAC and its research mission. While there remains considerable uncertainty in the broader world of higher education, the more immediate impact of the shuttering of USAID (the US Agency for International Development, the principal federal agency that has funded cultural heritage preservation) and the State Department agencies that have supported what we commonly refer to as cultural diplomacy initiatives (such as cultural exchanges and education and training programs) is—and will be—devastating. Meanwhile, the conflicts that have engulfed the Middle East, which have precipitated a scale of human suffering and dislocation that we have not witnessed since World War II, have put this vital and irreplaceable cultural legacy at greater risk than at any time in history.

The need for support of cultural heritage preservation is thus more critical than ever. The documentation, conservation, and preservation of the cultural heritages of the ancient sites and communities that we study have been a core part of ISAC's mission and values since our inception, and will continue. Thanks to the visionary leadership of our own Gil Stein, ISAC is well positioned in this critical endeavor: the recently launched Chicago Center for Cultural Heritage Preservation (C3HP) has already begun to build important partnerships with our Middle Eastern interlocutors, while engaging in the crucial effort to raise awareness and support in the face of the current crisis. Look for future reports and details on how you might participate and help in this vital undertaking.

This issue of *News & Notes* continues our yearlong focus on the Institute's century of exploration, discovery, and documentation of the ancient cultures of the Nile Valley. ISAC research associate Lisa Heidorn reports on her research and publication of the enigmatic first millennium BCE fortress on the island of Dorginarti in the vicinity of the Second Cataract that guarded the borderlands between pharaonic Egypt and ancient Nubia. Valued ISAC volunteer and Advisory Council member Barbara Jillson describes her adventure (with Anne Schumacher) translating the diaries of Uvo Hölscher, early excavator of Medinet Habu, which are preserved in the ISAC Museum Archives, while veteran ISAC Museum docent Jean Nye identifies her favorite museum gallery object—a Meroitic jar with snakes on display in the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery.

We also highlight the newly launched excavations of the Türkmen-Karahöyük Archaeological Project, codirected by ISAC associate professor James Osborne, which has already produced important discoveries during the preliminary survey of this monumental Bronze Age Anatolian site, and promises many more in the years to come. Stay tuned!

This issue's faculty profile features Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizek, ISAC's newly appointed assistant professor of Egyptian archaeology. Anna-Latifa joined ISAC's faculty in fall 2024 from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia, where she was a research fellow in the Department of History and Archaeology following the completion of her doctoral studies. Anna-Latifa's thesis research focused on the rise of the Hyksos in the Middle Kingdom and Second Intermediate Period and is part of a broader investigation of transregional connections between Egypt and its Levantine and Eastern Mediterranean neighbors. As Anna-Latifa notes, her first encounters with ancient Egypt began during her childhood with visits to Byblos while growing up near Jbeil, in Lebanon. We look forward to learning about other interregional connections as she embarks on new projects on third and second millennium BCE Egypt.

TIMOTHY HARRISON
Director

THE SECOND CATARACT FORTRESSES ON THE ISLAND OF DORGINARTI

GUARDING THE BORDERLANDS

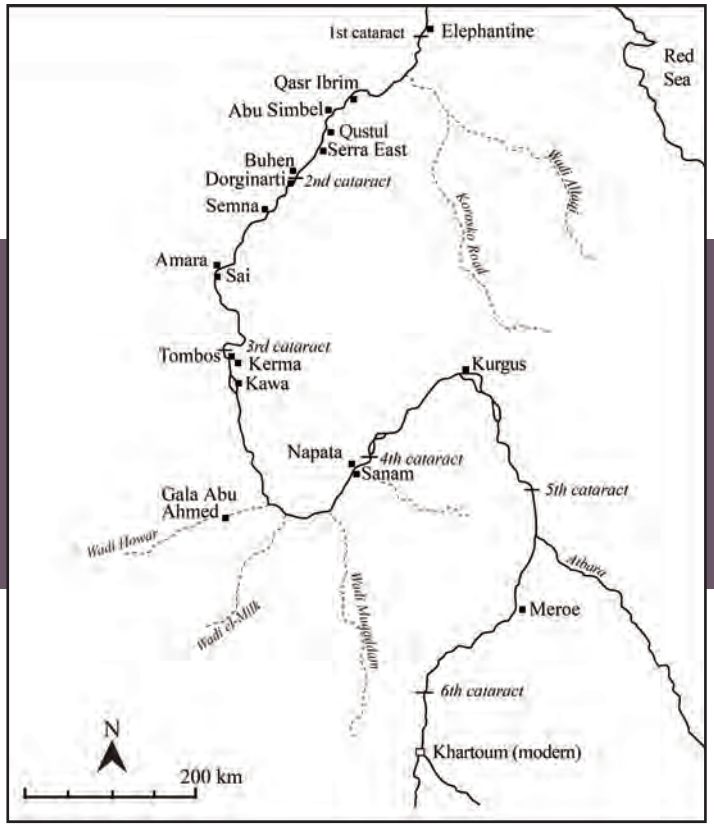
by Lisa Heidorn

While a student in the University of Chicago's Department of Near Eastern Languages and Civilizations in the 1980s, I began working with Bruce Williams on the Nubian Expedition Publication Project. As one of his artists, I drew objects, pottery, and lots of graves for his many publications of the materials excavated during the Nubian campaign of the Oriental Institute (now Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures), acquired during salvage work necessitated by the building of the High Dam at Aswan in the 1960s.

When I was deciding on a topic for my dissertation, Bruce kindly offered me the archaeological materials from one of the sites excavated during this campaign—either those from the fortress of Dorginarti or the Christian materials from Serra East. I chose the former because my knowledge of Christian-period history and archaeological material was nonexistent. But as I describe in this article, Dorginarti and the pottery, architecture, objects, and other materials found there also turned out to date to an archaeological period of which I had little knowledge—namely, the first millennium BCE.

However, I soon discovered how interesting the archaeological materials and architecture of the fortification at Dorginarti were for research. My final publication of the site dates the site more precisely than did the original dissertation, thanks mainly to publications of pottery from stratified contexts in Egypt and Sudan that appeared in the intervening time.

This article describes some of the issues I encountered during my research and explains my reconstruction of Dorginarti's history during the early first millennium BCE. All phases of Dorginarti's fortification are remarkable in that they existed during periods once thought to have been empty of any noteworthy activity in Lower Nubia.



LEFT: Figure 1. Map of Nubia with relevant sites.

UPPER RIGHT: Figure 2. Pre-excavation photo of Dorginarti's north wall, looking east.

LOWER RIGHT: Figure 3. Atop the south wall in the West Sector, looking east toward the southern wall breach.

THE NUBIAN EXPEDITION PUBLICATION PROJECT

In the early 1960s, the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures participated in the International Campaign to Save the Monuments of Nubia, surveying parts of the Lower Nubian Nile Valley for archaeological remains before they were submerged by the waters collecting behind the new Aswan High Dam at the First Cataract and creating Lake Nasser or the "Nubian Sea." Over the course of several years, ISAC's Nubian Expedition completed excavations at multiple sites, and the Institute was determined to complete the study and publication of its work. The first two volumes of Nubian Expedition materials were published in 1967 by Herbert Ricke and other scholars. Subsequent volumes by Bruce Williams and his colleagues, including most recently Joanna Then-Obłuska and me, appeared between the mid-1980s and the present (all freely available online at http://bit.ly/4aM01AL). We are now focusing on the materials from Nubian Expedition sites excavated and surveyed in 2007 and 2008 as part of the salvage project necessitated by the building of the Merowe Dam at Kareima, which subsequently flooded the Fourth Cataract region of the Nile. This project was directed by Geoff Emberling and Bruce Williams.

The earlier Nubian Expedition was prolonged by an extra season in 1963–64 to finish work at Serra East, in Egyptian Nubia, and to undertake a short excavation at a new concession on the island of Dorginarti, in Sudanese Nubia (fig. 1). The excavations at both sites were under the direction of James E. Knudstad. The work season at the fortress of Dorginarti began on January 4, 1964, and finished on June 8, 1964, with work unable to continue after this date because of money constraints and the high level of the Nile filling behind the Aswan High Dam. Knudstad published a preliminary study of the site's archaeological remains in 1966, and I worked on them for my dissertation, completed in 1992, and for the final excavation report, published in 2023.

In the interval between the completion of the dissertation and the final publication, a lot of new information was published about late second-millennium to early first-millennium BCE pottery in Egypt and beyond, and this data made a more precise dating possible for the Dorginarti sherds stored in the ISAC Museum. Abundant changes had also occurred in publishing technology; I myself scanned the site's pottery and object drawings from the 1980s and converted them into vector graphics, while Nadejda Rechetnikova converted the architectural plans to a digital format using Knudstad's excellent records and drawings.

A PROFILE OF THE EARLIER FORTIFICATION AT DORGINARTI

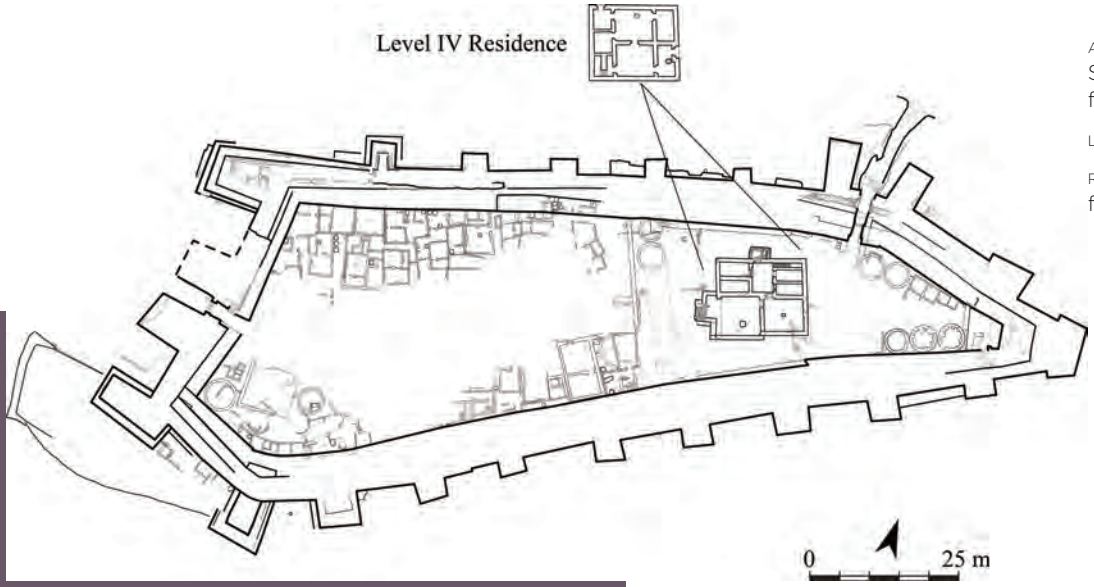
When Knudstad and his team arrived at the fortification, the site was "stratigraphically complex and fussy . . . a veritable monstrosity of mudbrick laminations and repair work" (as Knudstad wrote on February 5, 1964, to the Oriental Institute's director, Robert McCormick Adams), appearing as a mass of impassable brick before excavation (fig. 2). Wind-blown sand and repeated Nile flooding over the millennia had eroded the multiple rebuilding layers of the defensive walls and scoured the middle of the West Sector free of its remains. The force of the floodwaters from the southwest channel of the river had caused breaches in all the enclosure walls except at the east end (fig. 3). The West Gate into the fortress and the west curtain wall were destroyed and covered by heaps of cataract stones. Luckily, Knudstad could trace the outlines of the fortress's mudbrick outer wall and bastions from the imprint left by the melted brick among the stones of the glacis.

Given the short excavation season (only five months), the excavators did a remarkable job of clearing the site's main features (fig. 4). The three main brick sizes employed in constructing different phases of the fortress helped connect contemporary features, though the bricks were often reused to build later constructions. Knudstad found at least four main periods of construction, with multiple subphases in many areas of the fort; he designated the topmost Christian building as Level I and the lowest levels reached as Level IV. He divided the fort into three main sectors, with the principal living quarters, work buildings, and a gate in the West Sector (fig. 5). The Central Sector housed the Levels III and IV official administrative residences, which were later built over by the small Level II fort (fig. 6). The East Sector contained storage magazines, silos, another gate, and a stairway down to the river. The small objects and ceramics found at the site included later Meroitic pottery and beads from intrusive graves and a few ceramics from a Christian building, but the bulk of the material dated to the early first millennium BCE.

At some point during the life of the fortress, the defensive wall was rebuilt with two main vertical wall sections. The outer section may have been original to the Level IV fortification and was repaired, while the Level III inner wall now covered some of the earlier buildings, bins, and ovens in the West Sector (note the buildings exposed under the northern wall breach in fig. 5 and the southern wall breach in fig. 3). This renovation included a walkway atop the walls that was preserved on the north side of the enclosure. This wall walk was reachable by stairways preserved in the North and West Gates and would have been lined with crenellations on the exterior side of the curtain wall and on each of its bastions (fig. 7). Mudbrick crenels, offering some protection for archers, were still preserved atop one of the bastions along the north wall (fig. 8).

The agglomerative nature of reuse and rebuilding included multiple mudbrick relinings of the inner and outer curtain walls, resulting in walls that reached up to 8 meters wide in certain areas. For instance, a thick interior relining and thinner exterior relinings were present in limited areas where the water erosion had not reached. The walls were preserved up to 5–6 meters high in some places, but the preservation was poor to nonexistent in most areas.

The repairs and modifications to the outer walls and the inner buildings seem to have been frequent and irregular, but most often the stratigraphic connections between the walls and the surrounding interior buildings were missing. The phasing was hard to correlate, even for seasoned excavators such as Knudstad and his team (fig. 9). In the preliminary report, published in 1966, Knudstad noted, "That the fortification was built and occupied in the late New Kingdom seemed clear from the assortment of pottery, small finds and inscriptions, but just how late in the New Kingdom still remains an interesting question."



ABOVE: Figure 4. Panorama of the West Sector looking north, with the Level II fortified platform to the right.

LEFT: Figure 5. Plan of the fortress.

RIGHT: Figure 6. Level III official residence, from the northwest.

LEFT: Figure 7. 3D reconstruction of Dorginarti by Nadejda Rechetnikova.

OPPOSITE LEFT: Figure 8. Crenels on the north wall, viewed from the west.

OPPOSITE RIGHT: Figure 9. The 1964 excavation team. Back row: John C. Lorence, Mielburn D. Thurman, Otto J. Schaden; front row: Louise Storts, Bruce G. Trigger, Richard H. Pierce, James E. Knudstad, Wenche Pierce; not present: Rudolph H. Dornemann, Sylvia Ericson, Alfred J. Hoerth.

Figure 10. Pottery from Level IV: *a*, ISACM E49716; *b*, ISACM E49562 and E49564; *c*, ISACM E24327.

THE DATING OF LEVEL IV

The fortress was, in fact, established sometime during the early Third Intermediate Period, after the Egyptians withdrew from Nubia at the end of the New Kingdom, around 1069 BCE. The earliest assemblage of pottery from the site stems from either the late Twenty-First Dynasty (1076–944 BCE) or the early Twenty-Second Dynasty (ca. 943–746 BCE) in Egypt.

The datable material consisted of a number of diagnostic vessels (fig. 10) and a late New Kingdom or early Third Intermediate Period hieratic inscription recording a delivery of grain (fig. 11). Silt and marl clay fabric jars, marl two-handled flasks, and a Phoenician juglet resemble forms found in stratigraphic contexts at other sites or in grave groups and are better dated than some of the other wheel-made silt forms. The silt jar type shown in figure 10a–b has a thin, light-colored slip painted onto the exterior, and the form and decoration, together with the type of silt fabric used, indicate a tenth- through early ninth-century date, while the Phoenician bichrome flask shown in figure 10c is dated to sometime in the eleventh or tenth century BCE. Although some of the pottery was dated by parallels from Egypt or from Levantine coastal sites, a fine-tuned chronological assignment for all the wheel-made pottery was difficult because the pottery seriation of the late New Kingdom and Third Intermediate Period in Egypt is still uncertain.

As noted earlier, there was not enough time to excavate the site entirely, so the architectural or archaeological remains in the levels from the fortress's earlier stages were never clearly exposed below the later strata. But there were floor levels and contexts that were certainly part of an earlier occupation, including the architecture of the Level IV official's residence (fig. 5, inset plan).

Figure 11. Hieratic inscription, ISACM E24308.

THE DATING OF LEVEL III

The pottery from Level III points to a later reuse of the earlier site and dates to a period preceding the height of Kushite rule in Egypt (Twenty-Fifth Dynasty, ca. 722–655 BCE) and before Piye came to power in Napata and then Egypt (ca. 753–723 BCE) (fig. 12). There are no Upper Egyptian marl vessels from Dorginarti such as are found at Twenty-Fifth Dynasty sites in Nubia and Egypt, especially those of the late eighth or early seventh centuries. It appears the fortification was not used by any state or local power after the rise of the Kushites in Egypt until Level II in the sixth century BCE, when the site was reused as discussed below.

WHO IS IN CONTROL?

The state that maintained the stronghold in the tenth to early ninth centuries BCE, and then again in the late ninth to mid-eighth centuries, is uncertain. The history of Lower Nubia during the tenth through late eighth centuries has not yet been comprehensively written, because incomplete and inconclusive textual and archaeological evidence merely hints at circumstances.

Whoever built and occupied the fortress before the Kushites rose to power as the Egyptian Twenty-Fifth Dynasty used mainly wheel-made pottery for food transport and storage, and wheel- and handmade pottery in their everyday activities. The wheel-made pottery, particularly that made of an Upper Egyptian marl fabric, suggests that a close interaction had been established with southern Egypt long before the rise of the earliest Kushite dynasts in the eighth century. There are also handmade forms and objects of Nubian tradition at Dorginarti, including cooking vessels, bowls, and twenty-seven stone arrowheads used by Nubian archers (fig. 13).

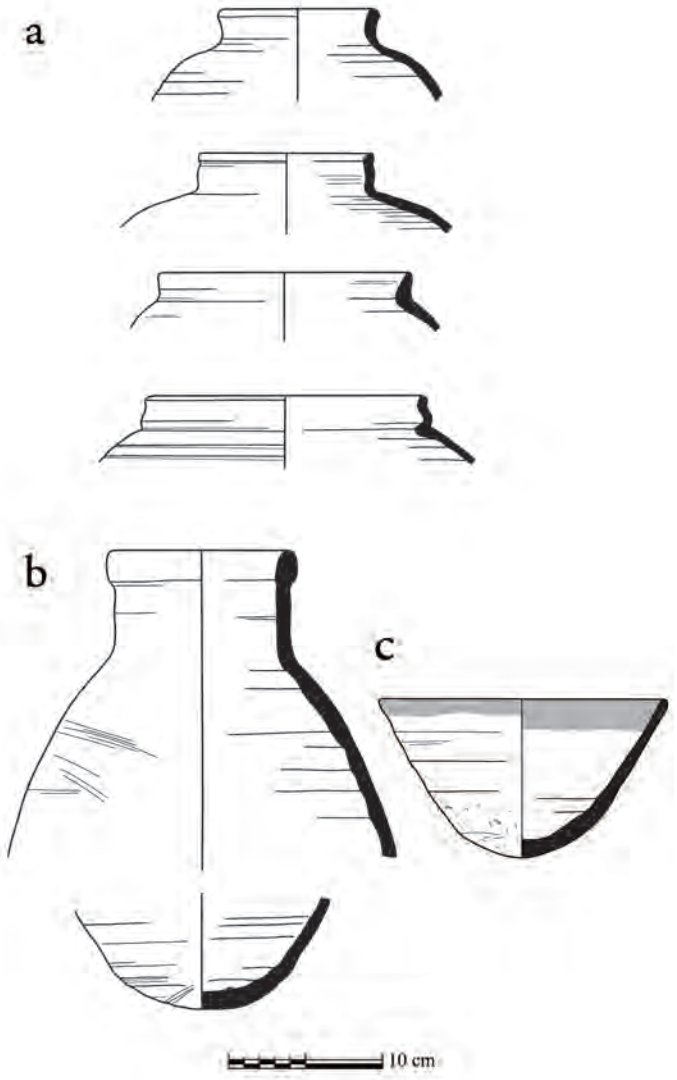


Figure 12. Level III pottery:
a, Upper Egyptian marl jars (unregistered);
b, silt with red slip (ISACM E49504);
c, silt with red rim band (ISACM E24347).

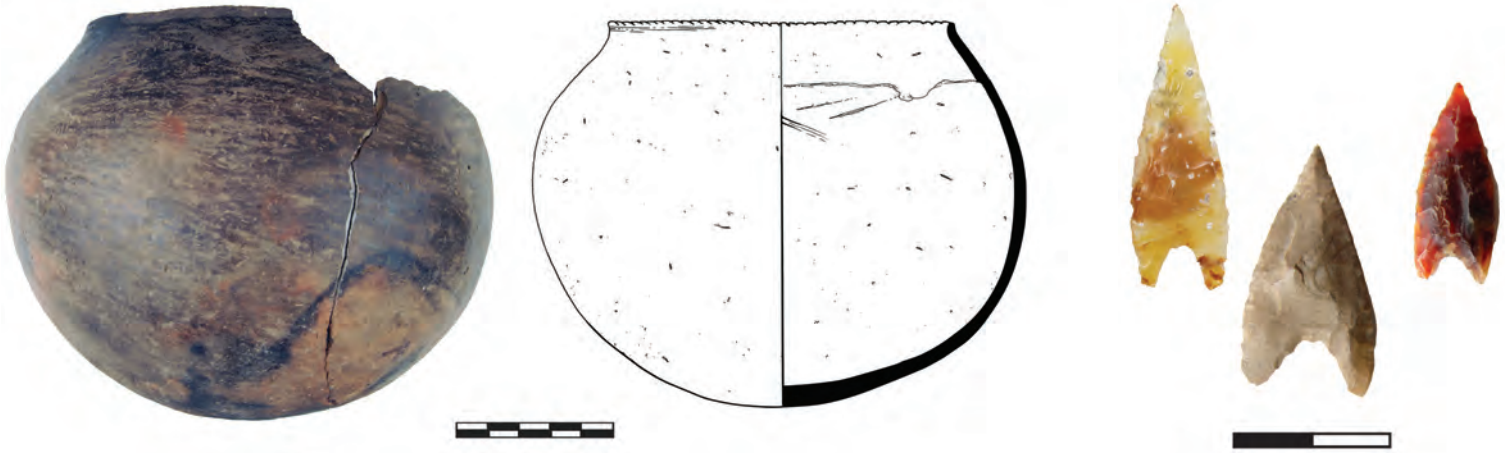


Figure 13. LEFT: Handmade bowl with incised rim (ISACM E36380);
RIGHT: lithic arrowheads (ISACM E24349e, Khartoum 14274, and Khartoum 14269).

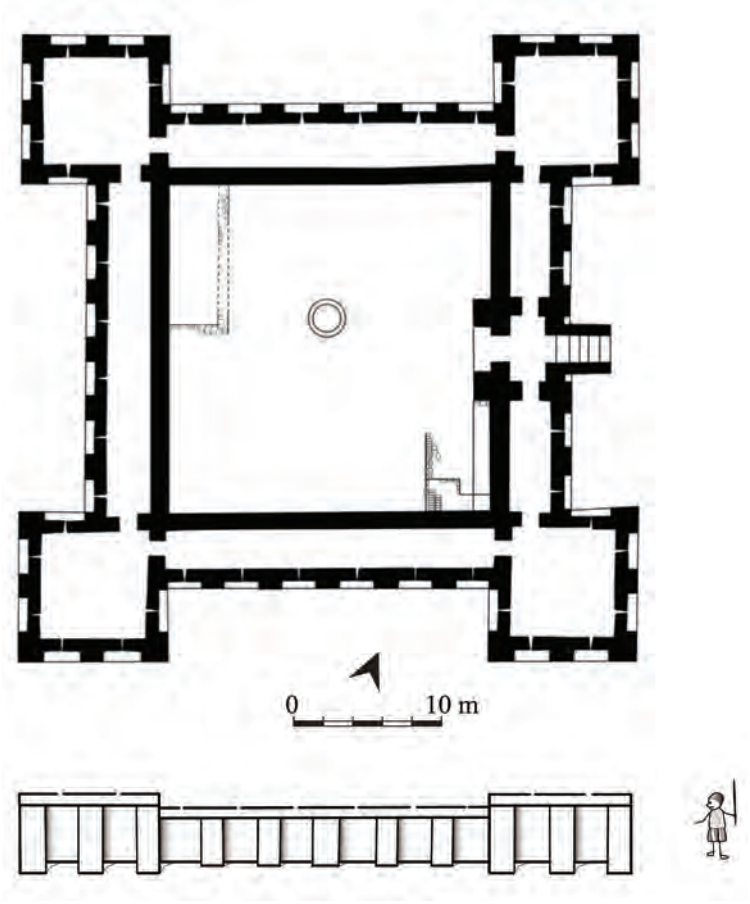
It is thus assumed that the Second Cataract was an outpost of Egypt in the site's Level III and IV periods before the Kushites controlled Lower Nubia, and that the army and its staff were composed of a mix of people from both the north and the south. Whoever held sway over the fortification, it remains clear that the bulk of their provisions was packaged in Egypt and sent to the Second Cataract. The pottery and texts remain frustratingly silent about who precisely was using these defenses in either of the early periods.

THE SAITE PERIOD REUSE OF DORGINARTI (LEVEL II)

The Dorginarti fortress was clearly of immense strategic importance during all its phases, and the ongoing expense of maintaining and supplying it over a long distance was therefore justified. The Level II phase of the fortress is the only one that is well dated by its architecture, imported amphorae, and small objects. In this phase, a smaller, platformed fort was built atop the remains of the older fortification, its external walls preserving evidence for arrow slits and four corner towers (fig. 14). Once again, the pottery contemporary with the Level II remains was mostly out of context, since the architecture atop the small platformed fort had been demolished and the platform reused for Meroitic graves and later Christian buildings. East Greek, Phoenician, and Egyptian vessels are all associated with this level, and all can be dated securely within the sixth century BCE (fig. 15).

The reestablishment of the stronghold was clearly undertaken as part of a Twenty-Sixth Dynasty (664–525 BCE) campaign and other Egyptian raids into Nubia, forays that are hinted at under Psamtik I and Necho II but are best attested by the Nubian campaign stelae of Psamtik II. These stelae were found at the First Cataract site of Shellal, as well as at Karnak and Tanis. The evidence also includes Greek, Carian, and Phoenician inscriptions left by Psamtik II's foreign troops at Abu Simbel and the Carian onomastical graffiti at nearby Buhen and Gebel Sheikh Suleiman, which were left by mercenaries participating in the campaign. The inscriptional material suggests the region was held as a part of Egypt from Psamtik II's campaign against the Kushites in 593 BCE until the end of the Saite dynasty, when Egypt was conquered by the Persians (525 BCE).

The fortress was undoubtedly on the itinerary of Psamtik II's army, and a Greek graffito of one of its foreign mercenaries at the temple of Abu Simbel, on the left leg of one of the Ramesses II colossi, indicates they went as far south as a place called "Kerkis," where the river put a stop to their navigation. According to the graffiti at Buhen and the archaeological evidence from the Level II fortress at Dorginarti, the evidence for placing Kerkis in the stony cataract rapids around Buhen and Dorginarti seems irrefutable.



LEFT: Figure 14. Level II fortified platform, reconstruction by James Knudstad and Lisa Heidorn.

RIGHT: Figure 15. TOP: East Greek amphorae; BOTTOM: Egyptian marl handled bowl.

THE EMPTY LOWER NUBIAN BORDERLANDS: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DATA

Previous reconstructions of the first-millennium BCE history of Lower Nubia followed the notion that there was a hiatus in occupation and an abandonment of the area after the Twentieth Dynasty withdrawal from the region, partly as a result of low Nile levels but also because the region had become a political vacuum after the Egyptians left. From a hydroclimatic perspective, however, the Third Intermediate Period was characterized by significant variability in the Sudan, with river flows and floods increasing between about 900 and 700 BCE but decreasing thereafter.

Another reason some scholars accepted the idea that northern Nubia was abandoned was a supposed lack of archaeological data. While it is true that few settlements dating to this period were found, graves have been discovered that apparently lack any associated town or hamlet. But our knowledge of early first-millennium BCE pottery was still in its infancy until the 1980s or later, and much of the pottery was misdated. Recent research has identified pottery and objects in Lower Nubian tombs whose contexts were previously considered New Kingdom. The number of graves from which most of the material was found indicates a bigger population than in the Middle Kingdom's Twelfth Dynasty and is sizable enough to suggest a population closer in size to that during the New Kingdom control of the region.

The only robust archaeological material from Lower Nubian settlements dating to the period from the beginning of the Third Intermediate Period through the Twenty-Fifth Dynasty is represented by substantial ceramic assemblages from the fortifications at Dorginarti and Qasr Ibrim.

TEXTUAL EVIDENCE

The textual evidence for the Third Intermediate Period in Lower Nubia, before the Kushite dynasty, consists of a fragmentary stela of Katimala inscribed at the entrance to the earlier temple of Dedwen and Sesostris III at Semna West. The philology of the Late Egyptian inscription dates it to sometime between the Twenty-First and the Twenty-Fifth Dynasties, most probably before 850 BCE. The inscription appears to have been added to an earlier Ramesside or Twenty-First Dynasty iconographic scene. The prominence of the god Amun in the text suggests a continued interaction between the priests of Amun at Thebes and the Kushites during the Third Intermediate Period.

Officials bearing the title "viceroy of Kush and overseer of the southern lands" are attested during the Twenty-First through Twenty-Third Dynasties, perhaps reflecting a situation akin to the use of the title in the New Kingdom, when these individuals had direct control over Lower Nubia and its gold mines. If, in this period, they did not directly control the Lower Nubian territories through which trade moved, their administrative duties would at least have entailed the collection of taxes on the products arriving in Egypt from the south, to Elephantine. But they were most likely active participants in a continued engagement with Nubia and its products. The office ceases to exist after Ankh-Osorkon's tenure as viceroy during the reign of Takeloth III, after which time the Kushites were gaining ascendancy in Egypt.

The reason for the existence of the Level II fortress, on the other hand, is suggested by Psamtik II's Nubian campaign stelae erected at Aswan, Karnak, and Tanis, which describe the military maneuvers in two distinct accounts. As mentioned above, the events that the stelae describe are confirmed by the presence of Greek, Carian, and Phoenician inscriptions at Abu Simbel and the Carian graffiti in and around Buhen, but not further south.

TRADE

Throughout earlier pharaonic periods, and up until the more recent past, Egypt sent trade, diplomatic, and military expeditions to the south, along both the river and western desert routes of Lower and Upper Nubia. The merchandise, gifts, booty, and tribute that they acquired were hauled up the Nile and along the desert routes from Nubia or from elsewhere in the Sudan and Ethiopia. These goods, so important for the running of the Egyptian state and its palaces and temples, included gold, copper, semiprecious and quarried stones, cattle, sheep, and goats, all of which could be acquired along the Nile or in the deserts and highlands to the south, east, and west of the river. Other, more exotic goods included ivory, rare woods, incense, ostrich feathers, and rare animals or their skins. Most of this trade in the early first millennium BCE was not yet carried through Red Sea maritime routes but came along the Nile or through the eastern and western deserts. The kings in Egypt and their Near Eastern allies continued to acquire these luxury goods during the first millennium BCE from the ancient Sudan, and the collection and transport of these exotica necessitated an indigenous or foreign presence along the dangerous Lower Nubian routes.

CONCLUSION

The political situation during the Third Intermediate Period probably increased the difficulty that both Egypt and Kush would have experienced in controlling the strategic routes running along the Nile and through the eastern and western deserts. Rule of Egypt was at that time fragmented among many dynasts, and its northeastern frontier was threatened by the successive advances of the Assyrians, Babylonians, and Persians. The strength of the Kushite kingdom depended on numerous fragile alliances, and the troublesome tribes of Lower Nubia would have hampered any Egyptian or Kushite attempts to use or annex the area.

Textual evidence indicates that although Lower Nubia may have deservedly retained the image of an untamed frontier region with unruly nomads and brigands, it was not an entirely abandoned area during much of the Third Intermediate Period (ca. 1076–723 BCE) or Twenty-Fifth Dynasty (ca. 722–525 BCE). The evidence from Upper Nubia confirms that settlement, and the tombs of the population settled there, continued through the first half of the first millennium.

The establishment of a stronghold at the Second Cataract would have been one way to bring some control over an important region and to guard the trading, military, and diplomatic expeditions still bringing exotic goods northward from the south and sending other supplies southward. As mentioned in the introduction to this article, all phases of Dorginarti's fortification are remarkable in that they existed during periods once thought to have been empty of any activity in Lower Nubia.

THE DIARIES OF UVO HÖLSCHER

THE EXCAVATION OF MEDINET HABU, 1926–1933

by Barbara Jillson

In May 2021, Emily Teeter introduced fellow volunteer Anne Schumacher and me to Prof. Uvo Hölscher, the German archaeologist who excavated Medinet Habu on behalf of the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures (or ISAC, then the Oriental Institute) from 1926 to 1933. As part of a project to write the 100-year history of the Institute's illustrious Epigraphic Survey, which has studied and published the reliefs and inscriptions at the site for the past century, Emily needed the records of the excavation of Medinet Habu, which are in German, transcribed and translated into English. It has been a challenging and fascinating collaboration!

In early 1926, Dr. James Henry Breasted, founder of the Oriental Institute, invited Hölscher and a team of experts to begin the excavation of Medinet Habu. There had been some earlier attempts to study the architecture of the mortuary temple of Ramesses III, but the techniques used were neither methodical nor well documented. This excavation would be thorough and meticulously recorded. Hölscher published many volumes about his excavations, but he also left behind four handwritten and beautifully illustrated diaries, which give a much more personal and intimate insight into his work at Medinet Habu (fig. 1). The originals are stored in the ISAC Museum Archives. In 2007, archive volunteer Robert Wagner scanned the documents and began a translation project, but they were not fully transcribed or translated until the work was revived in 2021.

The first challenge Anne and I faced was a physical one: the diaries were written in pencil on lined paper with two carbon copies, so three versions in all. Hölscher fortunately used the Latin script and not the Gothic Sütterlin Schrift, which is now terribly difficult for most Germans to decipher. However, his handwriting was tiny and, after a hundred years, the writing had faded (fig. 2). It was quite a challenge to make out what was written, especially since Anne and I are neither archaeologists nor architects. Much of the vocabulary consisted of specific, technical language, and although German archaeologists were consulted about some of the problematic terms, there are places where we simply had to leave the German word and make a stab at a plausible translation. Since the translations and transcriptions will be available to scholars side-by-side with the original text, it is our hope that, in the future, someone will solve some of these mysteries.

Throughout these almost 200 pages of text, we got to know Hölscher quite well. He was a methodical, curmudgeonly sort of fellow who didn't have much patience with his crew. He often displayed the neocolonial, condescending attitude typical of the times toward his workers. At one point, he counted the number of workers on-site "including the donkeys and camels." As Anne pointed out, if a German wants to call someone stupid, he calls them a donkey or a camel. On another occasion, Hölscher reported firing two men due to their "gift of laziness."

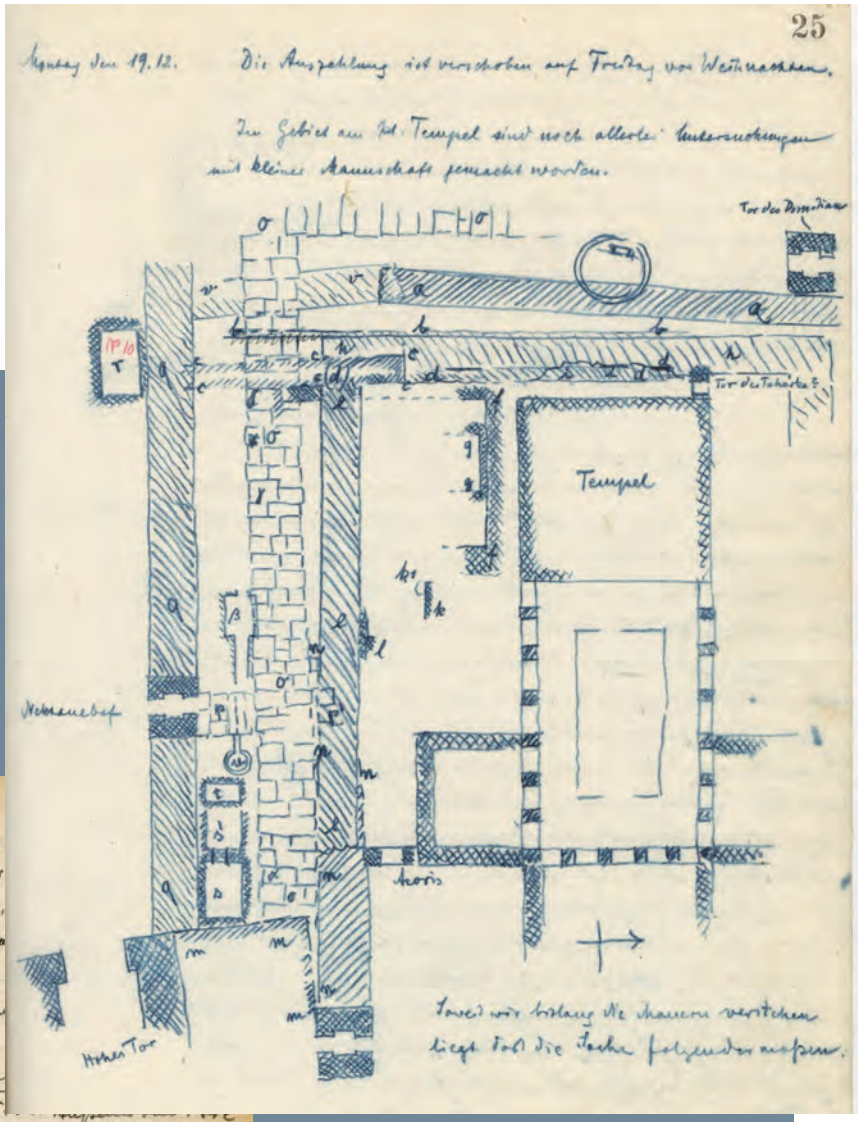
Nevertheless, work went on steadily. Conditions must have been hard, but many villagers still tried to be hired. On a couple of occasions, men and boys stormed the excavation site, trying to find work, and would not leave until local police stepped in.

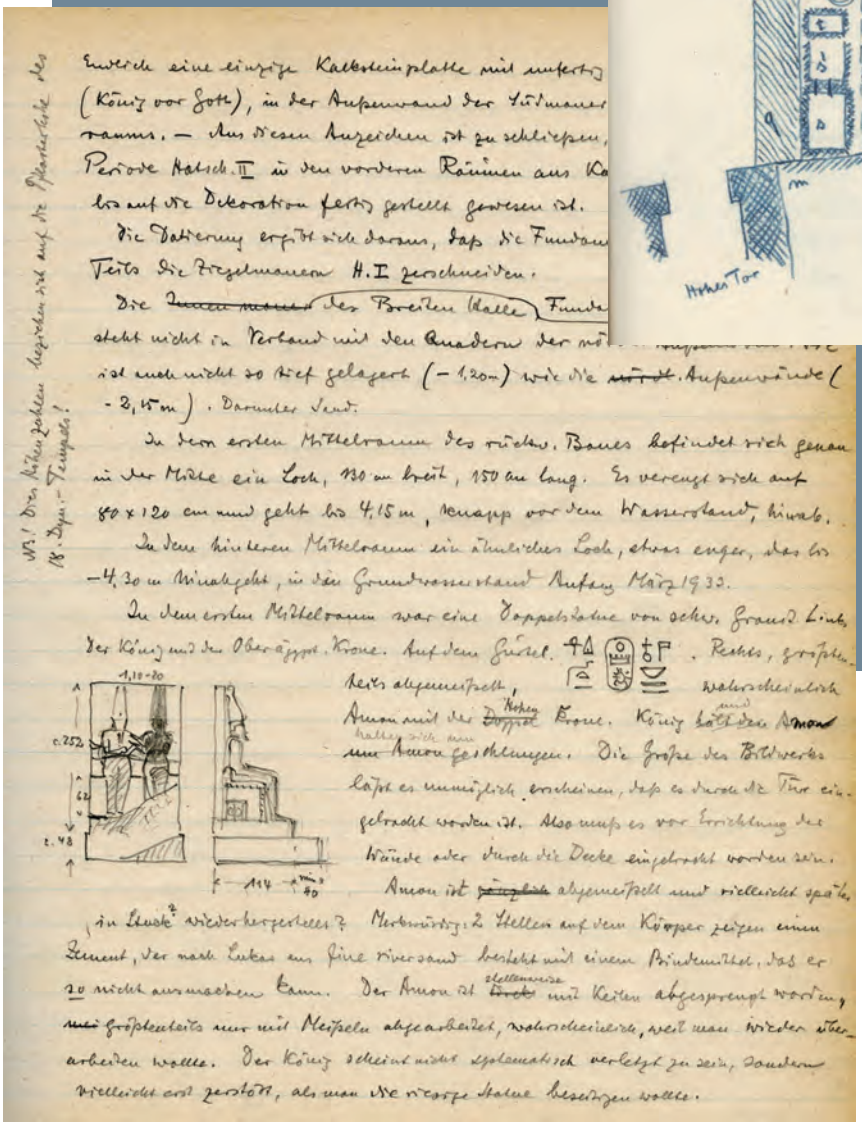
Hölscher's wife, Ottilie, had accompanied him to Egypt, but the reader never hears anything about her. One wonders how she passed the time. Then, just as suddenly, she left and was not heard from again.

There were, however, several illustrious guests whose visits were noted in Hölscher's notes. Among them was Breasted's son, Charles, whose administrative support of the work in Luxor was vital. More notable was the February 10, 1929, visit of John D. Rockefeller Jr. and his family, who joined the elder Breasted and the whole crew in a pre-Ramadan celebration that Hölscher recorded as "four muttons with trimmings, entertainment in the afternoon, dancing in the evening." And, of course, there were often visitors from the Department of Antiquities in Cairo, including the director, Pierre Lacau.

Hölscher was also in contact with Howard Carter, who had recently discovered Tutankhamun's tomb and was in the process of examining its contents. Hölscher visited him, and on Saturday, November 12, 1927, he wrote enthusiastically: "In the morning with Carter looking at the latest things from the Tutankhamun tomb. Canopic chest!"

For those of us in the ISAC community, a discovery in December 1930 is of particular interest. Hölscher wrote that they had found "a colossal statue of Horemheb out of reddish quartzite. . . . Found so far are the crown, head and bust, body down to the knees." He wrote further that the "name Horemheb can be confirmed, it stands above a scratched-out cartouche. . . . whether the earlier [cartouche] belongs





ABOVE: Figure 1. Page sample with illustration (December 19, 1927).

LEFT: Figure 2. Page sample, writing, from volume 4, p. 15.

to Ay or Tutankhamun is still doubtful." Then, a few days later, they found "a second standing colossal statue of Horemheb, counterpart to the abovementioned statue. The face is better preserved."

There was some trouble with the Department of Antiquities, which claimed that Hölscher was digging beyond the boundaries of his permit, as the statues were found outside the enclosure wall of the temple of Ramesses III. Hölscher believed he was rightfully excavating within his concession, but the work stopped. Permission to restart excavations took several months to come through. However, in the meantime, Lacau of the Department of Antiquities permitted them to transport the two huge statues to nearby Chicago House for safekeeping—a journey that took four days. As we now know, one of them is the much-loved statue of Tutankhamun that stands at the entrance to the Egyptian gallery in the ISAC Museum. The second statue is in Cairo. As Emily Teeter points out in *Chicago on the Nile*, Hölscher and his colleagues had to be very careful about identifying the subject of the statue as Tutankhamun, whose name gave everything star power as his tomb was being cleared.

The main part of these diaries is composed of meticulous, exact descriptions and beautifully detailed drawings of everything that was discovered during the excavations. Most of the work seems quite tedious, consisting as it does of measurements of walls, the sizes of the bricks used, guesses as to the original function of structures, and so forth. Seldom was anything of value discovered, except for a lot of ushabtis, but the occasional statue, gold ring, or other item of value and interest is mentioned. What is very clear is that this was a difficult and demanding excavation, in which up to 400 workers were occupied at one time.

As they excavated, Hölscher and his team discovered more layers of Egyptian history. The site had been occupied for many centuries and had been visited by many pharaohs in addition to Ramesses III, including Ramesses II, Hatshepsut, and various others. On the top layer were Coptic houses that were "cleared" to uncover lower layers. All the history that passed through this temple in its various manifestations and forms was recorded by Hölscher as it was uncovered for the first time in thousands of years. Today, researchers around the world can access scans of these original records, as well as our translation of them, online through the ISAC Museum Archives' digital archives at https://bit.ly/ISACDigitalArchives.

Figure 3. Barbara (left) and Anne (right) with documents in ISAC Museum Archive. Photo by E. Teeter.

MY FAVORITE OBJECT

JAR WITH SNAKES IN THE NUBIAN GALLERY

by Jean Nye

I started as a docent at the ISAC Museum in 2010, and I admit that at first I didn't spend much time in the Robert F. Picken Family Nubian Gallery on my tours. There was so much else to get through in just fifty minutes! The Nubian Gallery was a place where I said goodbye to my groups and sent them off with an invitation to "come back again soon to see all the wonderful things we didn't have time for today." That has changed in recent years, as I have become more familiar with the richness of the Nubian collection and have been drawn to the pottery in particular.

My interests at the Museum have always been in the direction of everyday life. I find it amazing to see and imagine the feel of objects that were made by human hands and put to use by real people—to feed their families, to furnish their houses, and to give them pleasure during their rare moments of leisure. Many of these objects are more than functional—they are beautiful as well. I think this speaks to the creative spirit that has been alive in human beings from the beginning of time.

This Meroitic jar with snakes draws me in because it exudes that creative spirit. It was clearly made by a skillful potter, during a period that may represent the high point in a long tradition of Nubian pottery. Its shape has a solid yet graceful feel. But the painted decoration is what sets it apart. Its creator, who may have been male or female, was clearly steeped in both Nubian and Egyptian artistic traditions but not tied to rigorous Egyptian interpretations. The cobras that slither around the jar look you straight in the eye and have a coy little smile on their faces. They hold flowers in their mouths in the shape of a stylized Egyptian hieroglyph—the *ankh*, which means "life." ISAC Museum director and chief curator Marc Maillot recently suggested to a group of docents that the artist showed confidence and freedom in leaning toward his (or her) Nubian heritage in depicting the cobra, turning its meaning around to emphasize life rather than power and death.

Now, when my tours come to an end, I save some time for the Nubian Gallery and always stop at the display case of Meroitic pottery. What better way to encourage folks to return than by introducing them to these lively cobras with the life-affirming flowers in their mouths? It's not too much of a stretch to imagine that one of them is winking at you as you go out the door!

Meroitic jar with cobras spitting *ankh* signs (ISACM E22563). Visit https://bit.ly/SnakeJar to view a 3D model of the jar created by ISAC / Field Museum postdoctoral scholar Kea Johnson.

THE TÜRKMEN-KARAHÖYÜK ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROJECT

A NEW EXCAVATION IN ANATOLIA

by James F. Osborne, Michele R. Massa, and Hüseyin Erpehlivan

It has been decades since the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures was directly involved with a major excavation on the Anatolian plateau—home to the Hittite Empire of the Late Bronze Age and the kingdom of Phrygia during the Iron Age, among other famous ancient Near Eastern cultures. Although ISAC-affiliated projects south of the Taurus Mountains, including Zincirli Höyük and Tell Tayinat, have provided a fascinating view of the interface between Anatolia and the northern Levant, the huge stretch of land between the Taurus and the Black Sea has been mostly untouched by ISAC archaeologists. That situation changed in 2024 with the launch of the Türkmen-Karahöyük Archaeological Project (TKAP), a long-term partnership codirected by Michele Massa (Bilkent University, Ankara) and ISAC's associate professor of Anatolian archaeology James Osborne.

Massa and Osborne have been working together since 2019, when Osborne joined Massa's Konya Regional Archaeological Survey Project, which was cataloging archaeological sites in the Konya Plain, one of Anatolia's most fertile breadbaskets and home to hundreds of sites of all periods. The plain is famous for its Neolithic heritage, especially the UNESCO World Heritage Site of Çatalhöyük, but it was equally important during the as yet wholly unresearched Bronze and Iron Ages. During these periods, the plain was dominated by Türkmen-Karahöyük, which today towers 35 meters above the surrounding fields. With an area of 30 hectares that is at least doubled by satellite mounds plus extensive cemeteries, it is the largest site on the plain (fig. 1).

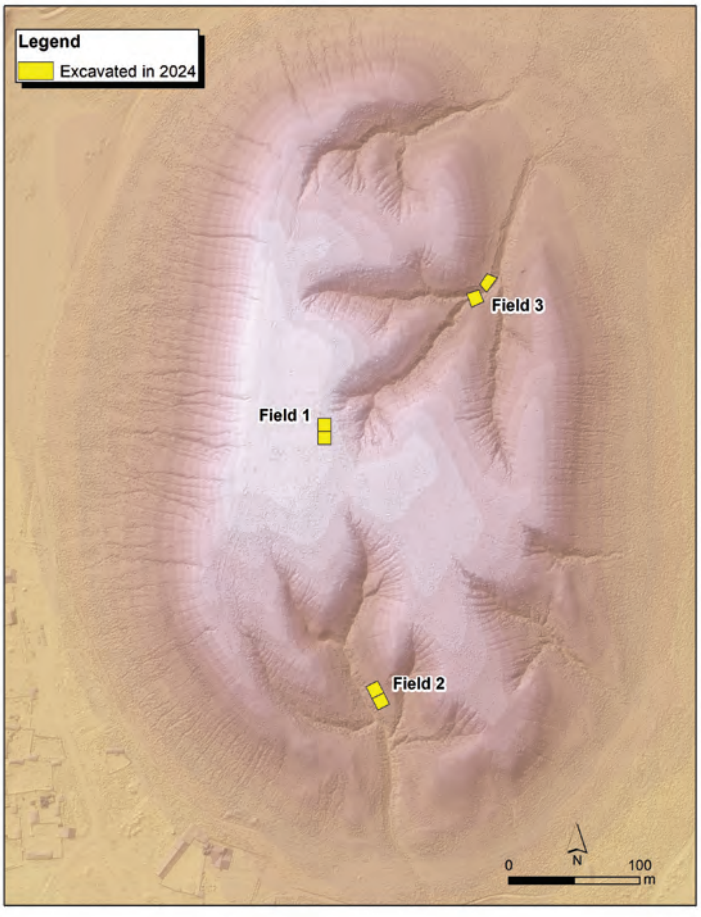
That Türkmen-Karahöyük's size corresponds with its ancient political significance was vividly confirmed in 2019, when villagers showed us a royal stela they had found on the site, bearing an inscription written in Hieroglyphic Luwian that was composed in approximately the eighth century BCE (fig. 2). ISAC Hittitologists Petra Goedegebuure and Theo van den Hout translated the text, in which one "Great King Hartapu" describes defeating the Land of Mushka, using the ancient Near Eastern term for the kingdom we more commonly refer to as Phrygia, as well as an alliance of local kings who rose up against him while he was away campaigning. The historical significance of this text has energized Anatolian scholarship, and, archaeologically, the discovery of a royal inscription at Türkmen-Karahöyük almost certainly means the site was the region's capital city during the Iron Age, and presumably earlier as well.

These survey results indicated that Türkmen-Karahöyük was an obvious candidate for a site that warranted sustained exploration with a long-term excavation project. After several delays caused by many factors, including the tragic earthquake that devastated Türkiye in February 2023, Türkiye officially awarded the excavation permit in spring 2024, and TKAP had its inaugural field season that summer.

Figure 1. Türkmen-Karahöyük from the west. Photograph by Michele Massa.

The 2024 season brought exciting results, as well as a number of surprises. TKAP chose three main areas, or "fields," to excavate, each selected on the basis of its unique morphological positioning on the site (fig. 3). For example, the eastern side of the mound is characterized by deep erosional gullies that have been created by millennia of winter rains gouging out the soft mudbrick detritus that forms the bulk of the mound's soil matrix. We placed Field 3 at the very bottom of one of these gullies as a methodological experiment that would allow us to learn more about gully formation and the viability of excavating in these parts of the site. Unfortunately, we learned that the erosional debris is much deeper than we anticipated, with very little preserved in situ until one moves up the slopes of the gully edges. Although this finding is valuable scientific information, it means that excavating the gully bottoms will always be a challenge.

Field 2 was placed on a terrace on the southern slopes of the mound, where surface ceramic collections indicated Bronze Age remains would be right under the surface—unlike the uppermost layers, which date as late as the Hellenistic period. This prediction proved correct when the Field 2 excavations promptly revealed well-preserved mudbrick buildings dated tentatively to the early Late Bronze Age, roughly the eighteenth century BCE (fig. 4). This period is a critical turning point in Anatolian history, as it marks the plateau's transition from a city-state level of organization to the Hittite kingdom that controlled most of the plateau on its own and eventually evolved into a full-blown imperial formation. Although it is too early to say anything concretely, the discovery of stamps and sealings alongside large numbers of loom weights in Field 2's buildings may hint at a larger-than-household level of administration over a political economy characterized by textile production. Material analysis and broader excavation will help elucidate this proposition.



TOP: Figure 2. Reflectance transformation image of the Hieroglyphic Luwian inscription known as TÜRKMEN-KARAHÖYÜK 1. Image by Jennifer Jackson.

BOTTOM: Figure 3. Map of the main mound of Türkmen-Karahöyük, showing TKAP's 2024 excavation areas.

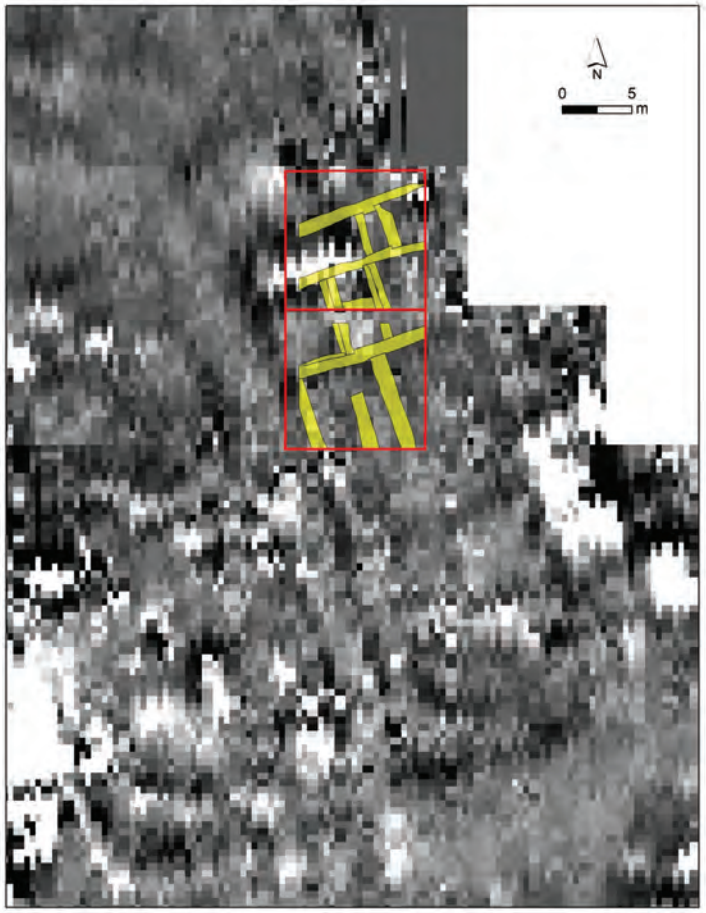
Field 1 was placed at the mound's summit. This location was chosen for two reasons. First, a magnetometry survey had indicated that this area was occupied by large-scale public buildings lying immediately under the surface. Second, it is here that villagers described finding the Hartapu inscription, suggesting that the area might be characterized by public architecture during many consecutive levels of occupation. Our excavations confirmed the presence of the large building that magnetometry had predicted (fig. 5) and dated the remains to the late Hellenistic period, or early to mid-first century BCE. Most excitingly, underneath the walls of the uppermost building in Field 1 lies an earlier structure that experienced an intense conflagration, baking its walls and filling its rooms with burned collapse, organic remains for radiocarbon dating and rich botanical analysis, and whole or reconstructible vessels (fig. 6). In this first season TKAP exposed the destruction layer in only two small locations, and even in these areas the floor level of the destroyed building was not reached. All this suggests that the 2025 excavations in Field 1 will be enormously rich in artifacts.

The 2024 TKAP excavations began exposing this ancient settlement for the first time, in the process allowing us to understand the material record of southern Anatolia. There is so much left to learn about Türkmen-Karahöyük, most obviously its ancient name and its place in geopolitical dynamics through time. TKAP has yet to start exploring most periods of the site's occupation, including the early first millennium BCE—the time of Hartapu's reign that got us excited about the site to begin with. This work will begin in 2025 and, with a site as large as Türkmen-Karahöyük, will continue for many seasons after that.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank the Turkish Ministry of Culture and Tourism for its permission to excavate Türkmen-Karahöyük and for its support in all matters of bureaucracy and administration related to the project. We are grateful to Ministry representative Nedime Özçalık Yılmaz (Konya Museum) for her kindness and support during the field season.

The 2024 TKAP excavation season was sponsored by the University of Chicago, Bilkent University, the British Institute at Ankara, the Loeb Classical Library Foundation, the Archaeological Institute of America's Richard C. MacDonald Iliad Endowment for Archaeological Research, and a generous contribution from Catherine Novotny.



TOP: Figure 4. Partially excavated early Late Bronze Age rooms found in Field 2. Photograph by Alvise Matessi.

MIDDLE: Figure 5. Building plan superimposed on the magnetometry results in Field 1.

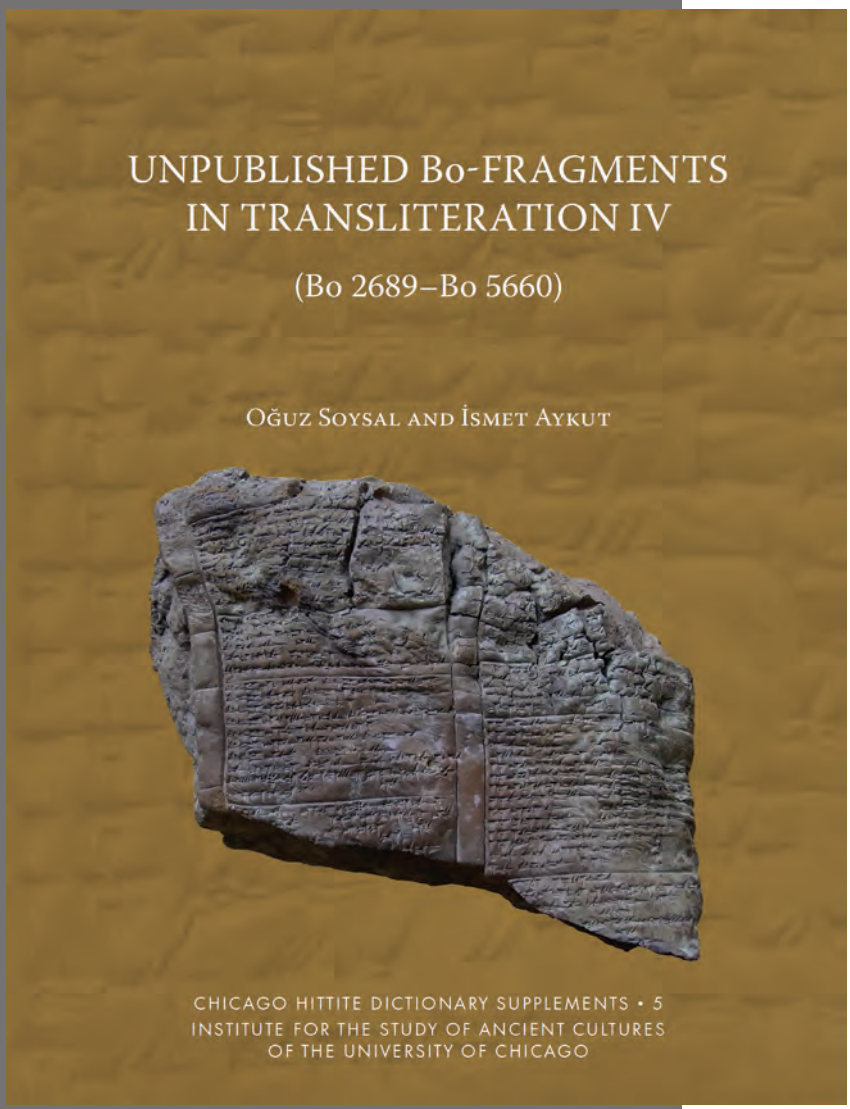
BOTTOM: Figure 6. Destruction debris in the process of excavation in a late Hellenistic building in Field 1.

NEW ISAC PUBLICATION

UNPUBLISHED Bo-FRAGMENTS IN TRANSLITERATION IV

CHICAGO HITTITE DICTIONARY SUPPLEMENTS 5

BY OĞUZ SOYSAL AND İSMET AYKUT



This volume continues the systematic edition of the unpublished Bo-texts deposited in the Museum of Ancient Anatolian Civilizations in Ankara. As in previous volumes, the text fragments are presented in both photographs and transliterations, with succinct philological notes explaining particular forms and relevant text variants. Direct joins with fragments in other museums are shown through digital image processing.

Most of the fragments dealt with are of a religious nature—predominantly ritual, festival, cult inventory, and oracular texts. Two fragments provide additions to the genre of Old Hittite historical texts; a well-preserved tablet exhibiting striking Old Hittite philological features concerns the cult of Zippalanda; and other fragments with the Gurparanzah myth, Hattian songs, and prayers represent further text varieties.

Each text edition is accompanied, wherever possible, by information about its assignment to a Hittite text or text genre, the date of composition, the fragment's measurements, and previous bibliography.

For a book description, free PDF download, and ordering information, visit isac.uchicago.edu/research/publications/chds/chds5.

FACULTY UPDATE
ANNA-LATIFA MOURAD-CIZEK

Dr. Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizek is assistant professor of Egyptian archaeology at the University of Chicago. Her research explores the links between cultural encounters and sociocultural transformations, focusing on relations between ancient Egypt and West Asia. Her current research examines how communities resiliently adapted to shifting long-distance connectivities across the third and second millennia BCE. It seeks to elucidate the ties between connectivity, environmental and climatic shifts, and regional and local transformations. Anna received her PhD from Macquarie University in Sydney, Australia. She later joined the project "The Enigma of the Hyksos," funded by the European Research Council and hosted at the Austrian Academy of Sciences, and then led her own project on the emergence of second-millennium BCE networks of exchange at Macquarie University. She has worked with archaeological expeditions in Australia and Egypt and is a member of the Beni Hassan Project team.

I am thrilled to have joined the Institute for the Study of Ancient Cultures and the University of Chicago as assistant professor of Egyptian archaeology in July 2024. Needless to say, the Institute is recognized internationally as a world-leading hub for researching the past and engaging with its enduring legacies. It is an honor to be able to contribute to this research by promoting studies on Egypt and its connections across North Africa and West Asia.

My initial encounters with Egypt were as a child growing up near Jbeil, Lebanon. I would visit the coastal site of Byblos and wander through its remains, imagining why and how the ancient city would receive dignitaries and merchants from across the Eastern Mediterranean, including Egypt. Exposed to narratives like *The Tale of Wenamun* or *The Myth of Osiris*, I quickly became enamored of the countries' rich heritage and archaeological remains, as well as their interactions with one another. I was fortunate to pursue these interests when my family moved to Sydney, Australia, eventually completing my PhD at Macquarie University.

My thesis focused on Egyptian-Levantine relations across the first half of the second millennium BCE and how they were connected to the rise of the Fifteenth Dynasty Hyksos, the "rulers of foreign lands." Following the thesis's publication, I moved to Austria to join the European Research Council Advanced Grant project "The Enigma of the Hyksos," directed by Manfred Bietak and hosted at the Austrian Academy of Sciences in Vienna. As part of this team, I investigated the impact of the Hyksos and consistent Egyptian-Levantine connectivities on Egyptian culture and society. A range of transformations were identified and linked to encounters clustered into two main periods. One was triggered by increased commercial and diplomatic activities (ca. 1770–1680 BCE), the other by more violent interactions (ca. 1560–1530 BCE). An unexpected result was that several transformations were aligned with larger-scale trends in identity representation and shared sociocultural practices on which little research has been conducted for the third millennium to first half of the second millennium BCE. Examples include the use of a Levantine-type dagger by diverse groups in Egypt already in the early second millennium BCE, if not earlier, and the changing representations of high-status individuals to show closer affiliation with groups from West Asia. One specific case that may relate to both is a dagger discovered in the sarcophagus of Princess Ita at Dahshur, a rare example of a blade in a woman's burial in this period.

I decided to look further into this unclarified superregional network—how it emerged, developed, and transformed and how it was triggered by and impacted those connected to it. I first explored the emergence of ties between Egypt and the Levant in my second postdoctoral project, funded by the Macquarie University Research Fellowship Scheme. The project investigated how communities negotiated and maintained cross-cultural relations. Its case studies included the sites of Beni Hassan and Tell el-Dab'a in Egypt. The findings clearly pointed to the transformation of identity markers and cultural elements as a means of strengthening long-distance ties. These involved technological and ideological developments that promoted connectivity and communication, such as the shared use of ingot shapes and weight standards that were used in the Levant, the recontextualized use of the curved sword as a symbol of authority, and the transculturalization of the liminal storm deity. The results also suggested that the development of relations with specific Levantine groups contributed to community resilience through significant sociopolitical shifts, from the rise and fall of the Egyptian state to the emergence of the Hyksos Dynasty.

Combining these interests and findings led me to my current and future research on how communities resiliently adapt to shifting long-distance connectivities. It aims to explore diachronic shifts in

multiscalar connectivities between Egypt and West Asia from about 2200 BCE to about 1350 BCE, the so-called peak of the "International Age." This research will involve tackling the still-unclarified extent of connectivities by reconstructing networks of long-distance exchange, who was linked to them, and how they changed across time. The latter considers the impact of environmental and climatic shifts, regional political developments, and community transformations, questioning whether these adaptations were local or responses to larger-scale network trends that may be associated with the emergence of early globalization.

This research will be paired with my continued participation in the Australian Centre for Egyptology's Beni Hassan Project. Beni Hassan is located about 245 kilometers south of Cairo and 20 kilometers south of el-Minya. It features a provincial cemetery of rock-cut tombs assigned to the late third to second millennium BCE (the late Old and Middle Kingdoms) (fig. 1). Since 2012, I have been part of the fieldwork at this site under the directorship of Prof. Naguib Kanawati at Macquarie University. I have had the pleasure to work with a multidisciplinary and multicultural team of Australian and Egyptian specialists and students investigating the cemetery, its tombs, and the community that once resided in the Oryx province of Upper Egypt.

The team has been rerecording the highly significant tombs of the local elite. Many are decorated with remarkably well-preserved and detailed wall paintings showing various activities reflecting daily life, religious and administrative practices, and social relations. Among those recently published by the Beni Hassan Project is the tomb of the mayor Khnumhotep II, famous for its representation of visitors from the northeast with their "ruler of a foreign land, Ibsha" (fig. 2). But before Khnumhotep II was Khnumhotep I, the great overlord of the Oryx province and count of Menaat-Khufu, who was involved in a naval expedition of the first pharaoh of the Twelfth Dynasty, Amenemhat I. Our fresh documentation of his tomb has identified scenes of multiple groups represented as foreigners from the south, west, and northeast of Egypt. We were able to detect one individual from the northeast wearing the earliest known attestation in Egyptian art of the one-shouldered garment (fig. 3).

Our future work at the site includes a survey and exploration of previously undocumented tombs. Preliminary findings offer tantalizing possibilities to explore how the local community adapted to politically tumultuous periods not only before but also after the Middle Kingdom.

I am excited to be able to continue this work as part of the University of Chicago. In fact, I found out soon after arriving at ISAC that the exploration of Beni Hassan was part of James Henry Breasted's vision for the Epigraphic Survey's work in Egypt. Around a century later, it seems that Breasted's vision has somewhat materialized, through our collaborative work with Macquarie University and the Egyptian Ministry of Tourism and Antiquities at Beni Hassan.

UPPER LEFT: Figure 1. The tombs of the upper terrace at Beni Hassan. Photo by Anna-Latifa Mourad-Cizek.

UPPER RIGHT: Figure 2. The "ruler of a foreign land, Ibsha" and one of his people, as portrayed on the north wall of the tomb of Khnumhotep II, Beni Hassan, ca. 1877–1870 BCE. Photo by Effy Alexakis, courtesy of Naguib Kanawati and the Australian Centre for Egyptology.

LEFT: Figure 3. A northeasterner wearing the earliest known attestation of the one-shouldered garment in Egyptian art, as portrayed on the east wall of the tomb of Khnumhotep I, Beni Hassan, ca. 1985–1956 BCE. Photo by Ahmed Suleiman, courtesy of Naguib Kanawati and the Australian Centre for Egyptology.

UPCOMING EVENTS

MEMBER EXHIBIT PREVIEW: *Staging the East: Orientalist Photography in Chicago Collections*

Wednesday, April 16, 5:00–7:00 p.m. Central

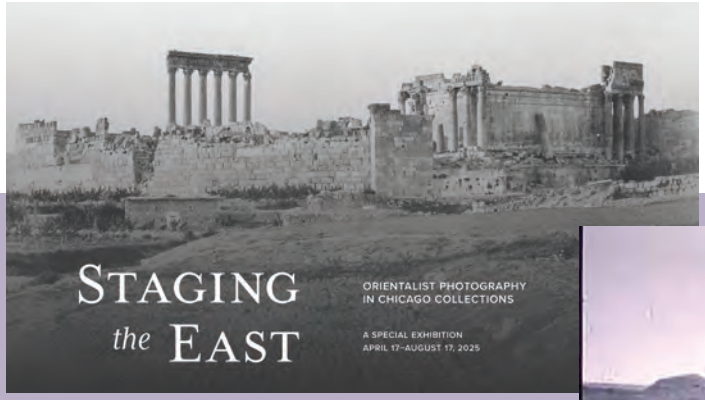
ISAC

Join us for the member preview of *Staging the East: Orientalist Photography in Chicago Collections* with a reception and supplemental programming by ISAC scholars.

"Orientalism," a term referring to academic and artistic bodies of work that depict aspects of West Asia and North Africa (the "Orient"), acquired negative connotations over time because of its underlying colonial biases. Applied to photography, it describes images and prints of the region produced since the mid-nineteenth century. Thanks to Edward Said's seminal book *Orientalism* (1978), the meaning of the word has broadened from a strictly geographical definition to one that applies to depictions distinguishing a supposedly traditional "Orient" and a modernizing "West."

This exhibition explores the beginnings of archaeological photography and how early travelers transformed it into popular retail. Prints were sold in large numbers by studios installed in Egypt and the Levant. Learn about the main photographers of the time represented in Chicago museums, whose collections are among the largest worldwide. The ISAC Museum Archives cares for one of the best-documented series, allowing for fruitful comparison. The exhibition concludes with the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, an event that was pivotal for the distribution of Orientalist imagery and the impact of the sale of prints on ISAC's mission at the turn of the twentieth century.

Learn more and register at https://bit.ly/StagingTheEast



MUSEUM ARCHIVE TOUR: Picturing the Perfect Collection—ISAC's Legacy in Film

Tuesday, May 13, 6:00 p.m. Central

ISAC

Join Anne Flannery, head of the ISAC Museum Archives, for a behind-the-scenes tour of the Museum Archives. The tour will feature a general overview of the Archives, while also highlighting the significant role of film and photography in ISAC's collection, in conjunction with the special exhibition *Staging the East: Orientalist Photography in Chicago Collections*. You'll have the opportunity to view various forms of early photography and learn about the work involved in preserving film negatives.

The Museum Archives is the official repository for documentation produced by ISAC since its founding in 1919. The Archives are a repository for historical documentation and photography relating to ISAC's expeditions, administrative history, museum, faculty, and staff. It is the mission of the Archives to provide information about and research access to its archival collections. The primary holdings of the archives consist of the following:

- Field records of ISAC's expeditions
- Correspondence of the Institute's directors beginning with James Henry Breasted
- Papers of ISAC faculty and staff
- Historical documentation pertaining to the museum's history
- Photographic records, comprising more than 100,000 negatives, prints, and slides

Because of the nature of this event, capacity is limited to fifteen people and registration is required.

Learn more and register at: https://bit.ly/ISACArchive

ADULT EDUCATION CLASSES

HITTITE LITERATURE
On-site and online hybrid class, 6 weeks

Instructor: Theo van den Hout, PhD, Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor Emeritus of Hittite and Anatolian Languages, ISAC

Mondays, April 14–May 19, 5:30–7:00 p.m. Central
On-site in ISAC 210 and online live on Zoom and recorded

Enrollment in this class is limited. Please register for in-person or online attendance.

After a general introduction to the Hittites—including the chronology and character of their earliest written products, script carriers, text genres, what was written down and what not—we will spend time on historiography, cultic texts, magic rituals, prayers, and oracles and end with Hittite mythology. Hittite texts (in English translation) and some secondary literature will be provided.

Theo van den Hout received his PhD in Hittite and Anatolian Languages from the University of Amsterdam in 1989 after a BA and MA in classics, comparative Indo-European linguistics, and Anatolian studies in both Leiden and Amsterdam. He is the Arthur and Joann Rasmussen Professor Emeritus of Hittite and Anatolian Languages at ISAC at the University of Chicago and executive editor of the Chicago Hittite Dictionary. He is the author of several books and many articles. His latest book, *A History of Hittite Literacy: Writing and Reading in Late Bronze Age Anatolia (1650–1200 BC)* (Cambridge University Press) appeared in December 2020. Although interested in all aspects of Late Bronze and Iron Age Anatolia, his current personal interests are literacy and writing, as well as visual culture/art in Hittite society.

Cost: Nonmembers $245; members $196; docents/volunteers/ISAC travelers $98; UChicago faculty, staff, Lab/charter school $61

Register at: https://bit.ly/ISACHittiteLit

INTRODUCTION TO HIEROGLYPHIC LUWIAN
8 weeks

Instructor: Emily Smith, PhD candidate, Department of Middle Eastern Studies and Department of Linguistics, University of Chicago

Thursdays, May 29–July 17, 6:00–8:00 p.m. Central
Live on Zoom and recorded

This class is an introduction to the Hieroglyphic Luwian language and writing system. Closely related to Hittite, Hieroglyphic Luwian was written in an indigenous Anatolian script that combines logographic and phonetic signs. The Hieroglyphic Luwian corpus consists primarily of monumental inscriptions but also includes royal seals, lead strips, and occasionally pottery. As we survey this corpus over the course of eight weeks, students will

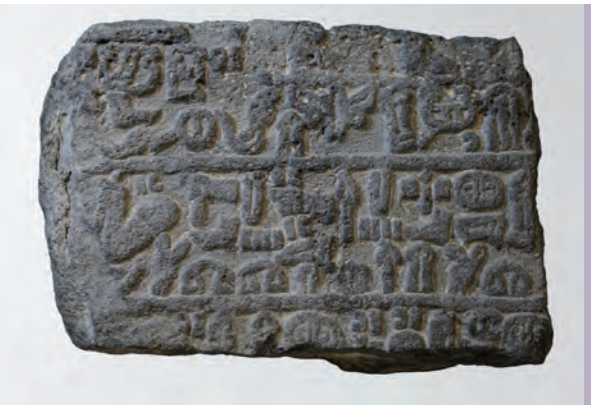
- learn to recognize common Hieroglyphic Luwian signs,
- become familiar with the basic grammar of the Luwian language,
- practice reading and translating a variety of Bronze Age and Iron Age Hieroglyphic Luwian texts, and
- gain an understanding of the social and political context of the Luwian language.

Emily Smith is a PhD candidate in the Department of Middle Eastern Studies and the Department of Linguistics at the University of Chicago. Her research interests include language variation and change, the development of writing systems, and comparative linguistics. She is currently writing her dissertation on reflexive constructions in Hittite.

Cost: Nonmembers $392; members $314; docents/volunteers/ISAC travelers $157; UChicago faculty, staff, Lab/charter school $98

Register at: https://bit.ly/ISACLuwian

Vessel terminating in the forepart of a stag, fourteenth to thirteenth century BCE, Metropolitan Museum of Art 1989.281.10, Gift of Norbert Schimmel Trust, 1989



Hieroglyphic Luwian inscription, ninth to seventh century BCE

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