

Institute supervised the excavations. Publication of the results took much longer than the field work. It is gratifying, therefore, to report that two splendid volumes appeared in December, 1967, to climax the first season's efforts of the Nubian Expedition: Volume I, *The Beit el-Wali Temple of Ramesses II*; Volume II, *Ausgrabungen von Khor-Dehmit bis Bet el-Wali*. Both are folios, with numerous photographic plates and line drawings, some in color. The text of Volume II is largely written in German in deference to Dr. Ricke's wishes, as promised by the director of the expedition at the planning stages of the work.

Subsequent seasons were spent in Egyptian Nubia at Qustul and Adindan (1962/63), at Ballana, Qustul, Adindan, and Qasr el-Wizz (1963/64), at Qasr el-Wizz (1966), in the Sudan at Serra East (1961/62 and 1963/64), at Dorginarti (1963/64), and at Semna South (1967 and 1968). The personnel of the excavations was seldom the same from year to year, and there have been and will continue from time to time to be reports by the field directors of the different years and locations.

The longest seasons and most extensive operations were those of 1962/63 and 1963/64, which took place under the direct supervision of Dr. Keith C. Seele during the first two years of work under a six-year grant from the State Department (Public Law 480). (The current year is the last of this grant, and its results will be reported separately by the season's field director). After unprecedentedly generous divisions on the part of the United Arab Republic Department of Antiquities the expedition brought home to the Oriental Institute from Ballana, Qustul, and Adindan thousands of finds, mostly from cemeteries, dating from ca. 3100 B.C. to A.D. 600-800. Many of these have been and still are exhibited in the Institute Museum, where they have been seen by thousands of school children and other visitors. Especially important among them are finds from the so-called A-Group period in Nubia (ca. 3100 B.C.), including the enormous tomb of a Nubian kinglet or prince and the "palette of the boats," now recognized to be

The Nubian Expedition

IN CHARGE: KEITH C. SEELE, PROFESSOR EMERITUS
OF EGYPTOLOGY, FIELD DIRECTOR

The Nubian Expedition began its field work in 1960. The first season's work was undertaken in the area of Beit el-Wali and Kalabsha and was a joint project with the Cairo Swiss Institute of Architecture and Archeology. The small rock-cut temple of Beit el-Wali was copied with the co-operation of the Oriental Institute's Epigraphic Survey Expedition in Luxor, while Dr. Herbert Ricke of the Swiss



Terra-cotta hippopotamus head found at Adindan, Nubia, in a grave of the so-called "A-group" culture, dating to the late Gerzean period before the beginning of the Egyptian dynastic era, ca. 3100 B.C. It is, therefore, one of the earliest terra-cotta figures ever found in the Nile Valley.

Large red-ware jar with vine and palm-leaf pattern painted in black, from a Meroitic grave in Qustul, Nubia. This jar was presented to Mrs. Lyndon B. Johnson at the White House during the campaign to raise money for the reconstruction of the Abu Simbel temples. It is now in the Smithsonian Institution in Washington.

the earliest object carved in incised (sunken) relief ever found in the Nile Valley and declared by a renowned French Egyptologist to be alone "worth the entire cost of the Oriental Institute Nubian Expedition." We are confident that its unique relief will stimulate a very desirable and long-needed reappraisal of the vexed problem of prehistoric Egyptian and Mesopotamian connections.

Dr. Seele has been engaged wholly for several years in the study of the vast material from the seasons of 1962-64. The task is not a simple one because of the range of time and the several cultures represented by the objects. It is anticipated that the resulting publication will be huge and, unfortunately, costly. He is working during the present year under a grant from the National Foundation for the Arts and the Humanities. The objects are now being sorted and classified pending the actual writing, and Mr. Donald D. Bickford of Honolulu, Field Architect in the season of 1963/64, is spending this year drawing plans, maps, and pottery. It is estimated that several years will still be required to complete the drawings, the photographic work (not yet begun), and the manifold descriptions and evaluations of the excavated material.