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Certainly the publication of Cemetery L at Qustul (see above) was a most gratifying event in Bruce William's research for the year, but there were others as well, some

founded on it. In February, an article "Forebears of Menes in Nubia; Myth or Reality?" (*JNES* 87, 15–26) defended Cemetery L's significance and tried to show that it represented an entirely comprehensible development in the wider context of Egyptian and Nubian history. Almost at the other end of the pharaonic historical career, "A Chronology of Meroitic Occupation below the Fourth Cataract," (*Journal of the American Research Center in Egypt* XXII, 149–195) defined phases and dated sites within the period between about 200 B.C. and 300 A.D. based on evidence derived from very large cemeteries at Qustul and Ballana. The period has been a difficult one for archaeologists and historians alike, but by defining four major phases and two stages in the distribution of the sites, as well as identifying a "Ptolemaic" phase in southern Lower Nubia, it was possible to reconcile apparent discrepancies and show that the archaeological and historical records for the period are in close agreement.

New submissions were also made this year. A brief article written in collaboration with Thomas J. Logan on a small basalt figurine from Megiddo resumed a series of articles generally called "Oriental Institute Museum Notes" which used to appear regularly in *JNES*. For some time, a continuing effort in research has been to identify and interpret early images in pharaonic art. It began with the unexpected emergence of documents in the material from Qustul that bridge the gap between enigmatic representations of the Naqada Period, (the Amratian and Gerzean) and the familiar ones of Dynasties "O" (Scorpion, Iry-Hor or Ra, Ka or Sekhen, and Narmer), and I (Aha and later). It was continued last year in an article with Logan which added newly recovered documents to those from Qustul that enabled the definite interpretation of earlier large-scale representations as pharaonic. This year, a monograph developed from a paper given at a symposium in New York last September compared a series of painted vessels from Qustul with others from Egypt and Nubia to identify a third phase in the decorated pottery of Egypt before the First Dynasty. This final phase of decorated pottery in early Egypt was comparable in significance to its predecessors in periods generally considered prehistoric, the Naqada II or Gerzean, and the Naqada I or Amratian periods. Moreover, the subjects of the decoration provide a basis for identifying not only a general phase in Egyptian culture, but also major pharaonic features in the earlier periods as well. As a result, a thesis can be stated that Egypt in these early periods was as much imbued with pharaonic culture as it was in the age of the pyramids.