

*Trovata in
Soleb a Pisa fl. 1/1/64*

LEGALE	TECNICO	RAGION
AFF. GEN.	<i>R</i>	PERS. N.
ASSIST.		ECONOM.
SEZ. A	SEZ. B	SEZ. C

SCAVI DI SEDEINGA (SUDAN)

MISSIONE MICHELA SCHIFF GIORGINI
SOTTO L'ALTO PATRONATO DELL'UNIVERSITA DI PISA
4 VIA AMBROGIO TRAVERSARI ROMA

Soleb, 8/2/64

Rettore Magnifico
Prof. A. Faedo
Palazzo Alla Giornata
Lungarno
Pisa

UNIVERSITA' - PISA
01418 17 II 64
POS. 3431

Illustre Rettore,

The clearing is not yet over and it is too soon to draw a conclusion, but it seems certain that the blocks of the chapel of La ringrazio vivamente della Sua del 30 Gennaio, delle Sue care e riconfortanti parole.

Le accludo qui un breve rapporto sulla nostra attività a Sedeinga. Mi perdoni, La prego, se il rapporto è in inglese (ed in un pessimo inglese), ma sono obbligata a scrivere in questa lingua al Servizio delle Antichità del Sudan e in questo momento sono talmente sopraffatta dal lavoro che non mi è proprio possibile di redigere un doppio rapporto, in italiano. Sia indulgente, La prego.

Come Lei potrà constatare, siamo capitati su due tombe violate e vuotate del loro contenuto, ma abbiamo trovato alcuni blocchi iscritti piuttosto "puzzling", più importanti per la storia che tanti tesori del mondo e la cui scoperta farà senza dubbio versare molte bottiglie di inchiostro (Come Lei sa, Taharqa è il faraone più importante della 25a Dinastia, ed il più grande sovrano dell'antico Sudan).

Nella speranza di ricevere presto Sue buone notizie, Le porgo i miei saluti più cordiali

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(West Tombs)

(leading to the door of the chambers), in which were fallen down several blocks of the superstructure: many stones of the pyramid and some blocks, decorated in incavo, coming from the chapel which was primitively backed against the East face of the pyramid.

The rock-cut roof of the door of the chambers has been found broken by robbers, who had cut their way through it. The underground tomb, with an ante-room followed on the West by the burial chamber (both with rock-cut vaulted roofs) has been severely ~~emptied~~ emptied of its contents. We only found there, scattered all over the place, fragments of gold leaves, chips of green faience bowls, and several bones mostly fragmentary, which seem to belong but to one skeleton.

The clearing is not yet over and it is too soon to draw a conclusion, but it seems certain that the blocks of the chapel of this tomb were decorated with the image of the great king Taharqa:

- T 1 d 1, block belonging to the façade of the chapel; it shows the anterior part of the body of a personage ← holding a sceptre;
- T 1 d 2, block assembling with the preceding one (d 1); it shows the figure of a king ←, crowned with the red crown. In front of the king there is the inferior part of a cartouche ←, which ends with the sign ^k _k × 
- T 1 d 3, block belonging to the South door-post of the chapel's door; it shows a very large vertical row of text →: ...great Lord of Nubia...;
- T 1 s 1, block belonging to the South door-post of the chapel's door; it bears the inferior part of a cartouche → ending with the sign ^w × 

This discovery, which with no doubt will cause a great ink shedding, could not be more unexpected, especially if one thinks to the large pyramid at Nuri.

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Report on Sedeinga excavations, from the 20th of January to the
8th of February 1964.

Meroitic necropole.

The clearing of tomb ^IT 1 — that we had already partly explored — has been resumed.

A very long stairway, very well cut in the rock, descend to the door of the burial chamber, below the pyramid. We found that robbers had cut their way through the mud-brick wall closing the door; the chamber seems to have been completely plundered.

The clearing goes on.

West Tombs.

A preliminary study of the "kôms" previously discovered on the West of the large meroitic necropole, allows us to say that we have there the vestiges of a small isolated group of pyramids, which had primitively ~~little~~ stone chapel~~s~~ backed against their East face.

Tomb T 3

The superstructure of the tomb which seems the southern one of this group has been cleared. It consisted of a mud-brick pyramid, of about 9 m. side, and whose vestiges are still quite high. On the East of the pyramid, we found another mud-brick pile, probably covering the stairway leading to the under-ground tomb.

A hole made by robbers, on the East face of the pyramid, shows that the tomb has been ~~plundered~~ violated.

Among the superstructure's vestiges we found:

- ~~T 3 s 2~~ T 3 s 2, a fragment of a sandstone stela, with remains of seven lines of meroitic inscription;
- T 3 s 3, a fragment of a door-post of a small sandstone chapel; The fragment, decorated in incavo, shows a godhead →, in the figure of a monkey.

Tomb T 1

The tumulus placed immediately to the North of the already mentioned tomb T 3, has been the object of this season's excavation.

Here we cleared the vestiges of a pyramid of about 9 m. side, built in schist blocks and its interior being filled with gravel.

This pyramid was erected on some primitive graves, pits cut in a gravel bed. We have not yet explored them, but they could be of the A-Group period, or even neolithic.

On the East of the pyramid we partly cleared a deep stairway