

SCAVI DI SEDEINGA (SUDAN)



MISSIONE MICHELA SCHIFF GIORGINI

SOTTO L'ALTO PATRONATO DELL'UNIVERSITA DI PISA

4 VIA AMBROGIO TRAVERSARI ROMA

*Copia
Al R. Arcivescovo*

Sedeinga, 19 Dicembre 1964

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

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

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03209 - 25165
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Egregio Rettore,

Le invio qui accluso un breve rapporto sui lavori eseguiti a Sedeinga in questo ultimo periodo. Le do inoltre la buona notizia che ho finalmente ricevuto le prime bozze di Soleb I.

Approfitto di queste due righe per rinnovare a Lei ed alla Sua famiglia tutti i miei auguri piú sinceri e cordiali per il Santo Natale e per l'Anno Nuovo. Ancora moltissimi saluti, anche da parte dei miei collaboratori, e devoti pensieri

Suo
Michela Schiff Giorgini
Michela Schiff Giorgini

1

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Report on the work executed at Sedeinga from the 23rd of November to the 19th of December 1964.

The work concern:

- A) West Tombs; consolidation of the inscribed stones found during the excavations;
- B) " " ; achievement of the excavation of the tomb W T3.
- * * *
- A) The very corroded inscribed sandstone blocks or fragments -- found on the surface's rubbish of the cemetery -- have all been consolidated; when possible, they have also been repaired.
- The several fragments of one stela's meroitic inscription -- W T2 s1 --, after a long and patient consolidation of every tiny little piece, have been replaced; it was so possible to realize that this stela belongs to the same whole of the lintel W T2 s2 (already mentioned in our last report). The fifteen lines of the stela's text are a double, almost integral, of the first long five lines of the lintel's inscription (the deceased is Ntemher -- or Ntemšer --, begotten of Shtëmebli, born of Maliḥdes ; formulae ACB).
- The paleography of all the different inscriptions found till now seem to date some of these tombs from the archaic to the very late meroitic period.
- B) The superstructure of this meroitic tomb (made of two mud-bricks pyramids placed south of Taharqa's tomb W T1) has already been excavated during our first season. The study of its substruction, begun this season, has been completed during these last days.

A stair cut in the soil leads to the door of the under-ground tomb. This one was built up in mud-bricks; it has two connected chambers with vaulted roofs; the walls and the floor of chambers were primitively whitewashed.

As we already supposed, the tomb had been badly plundered; but, even so, the remains were sufficient to give an idea of what could have been the tomb's contents. Different dates allow us to say that: the tomb had been made for two ~~different~~ deceased, whose burials took place at two different moments; the body buried first was the one of a woman of a certain age, while the other one belonged to a man, much younger than the woman; quite a long time had passed between the two burials; both deceased had been buried in wood coffins (now destroyed) and both in the first chamber; the second chamber -- completely emptied by the robbers -- seems to have been reserved only to objects and potteries.

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The very careful clearing of corroded and decomposed remains, drowned in a mass of earth and debris, brought to light some objects, ~~quite~~ mostly belonging to the first burial. Let us mention: about fifteen signet-rings (many in silver, ~~one~~ in gold, some in bronze and iron) with very beautiful intaglio on bezels, some beads, a little kohlpot in ivory, a nice ebony kohlstick, some ivory pieces from a game, three ivory dies with sides marked 1-6, some ivory and ebony elements from inlaid boxes, some bronze handles etc..

These objects, found in quite a bad state of preservation, are now all under treatment of consolidation and repairing.

At the bottom of the stait of this tomb, in front of the door of the chambers, were found: a fragmentary nice bowl in blue faience, and some terracotta potteries (three bowls, two jars, a spherical pot).

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Sedeinga, 19th of December 64