

Origins5

L'IMPRIMERIE
DE L'INSTITUT
FRANÇAIS 
D'ARCHÉOLOGIE
ORIENTALE

© Béatrix Midant-Reynes and Yann Tristant 2014,
on behalf of The Fifth International Conference of
Predynastic and Early Dynastic studies
Institut Français d'Archéologie Orientale, Cairo

Fifth international conference of Predynastic
and Early Dynastic Studies



Origins5 | Cairo, 13-18 April 2014

Organised by the Institut français d'archéologie orientale (IFAO)
in cooperation with the Ministry of State for Antiquities (MSA)
and the Institut Français d'Égypte (IFE)

Presentation

The fifth international conference of Predynastic and Early Dynastic Studies marks the continuation of the previous successful conferences which happens every three years: Kraków 2002, Toulouse 2005, London 2008 and New York 2011. This five-day international event will gather in Cairo a network of experts from different countries. They will present and discuss their respective research relating a significant range of themes within the broader subject of the origins of the Egyptian State (from the Predynastic period to the beginning of the Old Kingdom). This Fifth international conference marks a new stage in the momentum acquired by Predynastic and Early Dynastic studies.

Topics

Topics developed during the conference concern all aspects of Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt. Papers and posters will be organised around the following themes:

- ▶ Craft specialisation, technology and material culture
- ▶ Upper-Lower Egypt interactions
- ▶ Deserts-Nile Valley interactions
- ▶ Egypt and its neighbours (Levant, Nubia, Sahara)
- ▶ Birth of writing
- ▶ Absolute and relative chronology
- ▶ Cult, ideology and social complexity
- ▶ Results of recent fieldwork

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Cornelius VON PILGRIM, Swiss Archaeological Institute, Cairo, Egypt

Programme



Sunday 13 April 2014

9:00-10:30 Welcome

10:30-11:30 Opening

Session 1: Deserts and oasis

Chair : Béatrix MIDANT-REYNES

11:30-11:55

VERMEERSCH Pierre M., VAN PEER Philip, LINSEELE Veerle, MARINOVA Elena, MOEYERSONS Jan

Early and Middle Holocene Human Occupation of the Egyptian Eastern Desert: Sodmein Cave.

11:55-12:20

JEUTHE Clara

The Sheikh Muftah occupation at Balat North (Dakhla Oasis/ Western Desert) during the Old Kingdom.

12:20-12:50 Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch

Session 2: Upper and Middle Egypt

Chair : Ulrich HARTUNG

14:30-14:55

HUSSEIN Yasser Mahmoud

New extension of the early dynastic cemetery at south Abydos.

14:55-15:20

KUHN Robert

The Slate Palettes from the Tomb of De(we)n in Umm el-Qa'ab (Abydos).

15:20-15:45

HASSAN Fekri, VAN WETERING Joris & TASSIE Geoffrey

The Urban Development at Nubt, Naqada region, Upper Egypt during the Predynastic Period.

15:45-16:10

HORN Maarten

The Tasian-Badarian Divide in the Qau-Matmar Region: A Re-Evaluation on the Basis of Burial Dress.

16:10-16:35

CLAES Wouter, HENDRICKX Stan, DEVILLERS Anne, HART Elizabeth, KINDERMANN Karin, DE DAPPER Morgan, IKRAM Salima, SWERTS Carla, STORMS Geertrui & HUYGE Dirk

From the early Old Kingdom to the Badarian: recent excavations in the settlement area of Elkab.

16:35-17:05

Discussion

Poster Session 1

17:30-18:30

ATANASSOVA Vessela

Name or Title in the Early Dynastic Inscriptions?

HOLLIS Susan Tower

Early Dynastic *ḥt-ḥr*

HASSAN Fekri, TASSIE Geoffrey, VAN WETERING Joris, BANKS K. Morgan

The Exogenous/Impressed Decorated Ceramics from the Naqada Region.

MARCHAND Sylvie

La céramique Nagada III de Ayn Fogeia (Sinai).

PAWLIKOWSKI Maciej, SZYMANOWICZ Marcin

An importance of Neolithic-Early Dynastic-the end of Old Kingdom transition in Ancient Egypt. Geological evidences of climatic oscillations.

STÄHLE Wolfram

Situation, orientation and interpretation of early dynastic private stelae of Umm el-Qaab/Abydos.

VAN WETERING Joris

The cemeteries of Nubt, Naqada region, Upper Egypt.

Reception at IFAO

20:00

Monday 14 April 2014

Session 3: Rock Art

Chair : Stan HENDRICKX

9:55-10:20

GRAFF Gwenola, PIQUETTE Kathryn E. & KELANY Adel

Wadi Abu Subeira (East Concession): The complex hunting scene of Locus 10 and its implications for predynastic iconographies of social identity.

10:20-10:45

HARDTKE Frederick

The Boats of Hierakonpolis Revisited.

10:45-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-11:55

LANKESTER Francis

'Control of the wild' in Egypt's predynastic rock-art.

11:55-12:20

FRIEDMAN Renee & DROUX Xavier

Gebel Sheikh Suleiman Revisited.

12:20-12:50 Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch

Session 4: Textual Evidence

Chair : Pierre TALLET

14:30-14:55

HENDRICKX Stan, FRIEDMAN Renee & REGULSKI Ilona

Fish and the temple: Writing or reality?

14:55-15:20

ROCHE Aurélie

From iconography to writing: which kinship?

15:20-15:45

MÜLLER Vera

Seal impressions from Den's tomb at Abydos: New evidence and new interpretations.

15:45-16:10

ANSELIN Alain

Iconographies, oralitures, hiéroglyphie. Quelques réflexions sur les contextes culturels de l'apparition de l'écriture.

16:10-16:40 Discussion

Opening Lecture

Ministry of State for Antiquities, 3 El-Adel Abu Bakr St., Zamalek, Cairo

18:00

TALLET Pierre

The Naqadian Inscriptions of Wadi Ameyra - South Sinai

In 2012 the yearly survey lead by the University of Paris Sorbonne and the Ifao to the South of Sinai Peninsula allowed the discovery of a new archeological site at Wadi Ameyra. That site stands out for its many Naqadian rocks inscriptions and drawings that are the testimonies of expeditions sent to that place by Egyptian kings from the end of Predynastic and Ealy Dynastic periods. The site also gives original material on that key period of Egyptian history.

Tuesday 15 April 2014

Session 5: Nile Delta and Levantine Interactions (1)

Chair : Yann TRISTANT

9:30-9:55

MIDANT-REYNES Béatrix et al.

The evolution of dwellings in the Nile Delta during the 4th millennium. A view from Tell el-Iswid.

9:55-10:20

CHŁODNICKI Marek

From the storage pit to the silo. Storage devices from Predynastic to Early Dynastic times. A view from Tell el-Farkha.

10:20-10:45

CIAŁOWICZ Krzysztof M.

Beginnings of the Egyptian State. View from the Eastern Nile Delta.

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-11:40

JUCHA Mariusz & PRYC Grzegorz

The settlement and cemetery – a new research on the 4th / 3rd millennium Nile Delta site at Tell el-Murra.

11:40-12:05

MAĆZYŃSKA Agnieszka

The development of the earliest Predynastic cultures of the Lower Egypt – continuity or isolation?

12:05-12:30

HARTMANN Rita

Pottery evidence from Tell el-Fara'in/Buto – Chronology and economy of an Early Dynastic estate.

12:30-13:00 Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch

Session 6: Nile Delta and Levantine Interactions (2)

Chair : Joanne ROWLAND

14:30-14:55

HARTUNG Ulrich

Early Dynastic building structures at Tell el-Fara'in/Buto.

14:55-15:20

BAJEOT Jade, FRANGIPANE Marcella & ZAMPETTI Daniela

Researches of the Sapienza University of Rome in the site of Maadi (Lower Egypt): topography and artefacts in a chronological perspective.

15:20-15:45

KÖHLER E. Christiana, MÜLLER Vera & OWNBY Mary

North or South? A Re-examination of EB I-III Levantine Ceramic Imports in Early Egypt (A Progress Report).

15:45-16:10

CZARNOWICZ Marcin

Egypt, Nile Delta and the Near East: Early contacts in context.

16:10-16:40 Discussion

Lecture and Reception at the German Archaeological Institute in Memory of Werner Kaiser

Deutsches Archäologisches Institut, 31 Abu el-Feda Street, Zamalek, Cairo

The late Professor Werner Kaiser was the Director of the German Archaeological Institute Cairo from 1967 until 1988. Beside many other fields of research, e.g. his work on the island of Elephantine, his special interest was Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt. His "Stufen-chronology" of the Naqada culture that was established in the 1950s still constitutes the basis of scientific research on Predynastic Egypt today. As director of the German Institute he initiated not only excavations at Abydos/Umm el-Qaab, Buto and Merimde but also the publication of previously excavated material from prehistoric sites such as Maadi, Heliopolis and el-Omari. The lecture and reception want to pay tribute to the person and the work of Werner Kaiser who passed away in autumn 2013.

18:00

FRIEDMAN Renee, VAN NEER Wim & DECUPERE Bea
Spaces and Places at Hierakonpolis HK6.

On-going excavations in the elite Predynastic and Early Dynastic cemetery HK6 at Hierakonpolis have revealed hitherto unexpected evidence of above-ground wooden architecture including a series of independent pillared halls, round and rectilinear superstructures above selected tombs, and networks of interconnected fences forming enclosures around certain tombs of both humans and animals, which combine together to form what we interpret as mortuary complexes. In addition, a fence wall appears to have surrounded at least the central part of the cemetery, bounding it on the east and north side, if not all four sides, seemingly separating it from the northern part of the cemetery where the majority of the Naqada III tombs were located. Exposure of a nearly contiguous area of roughly 4500 square meters now allows us to examine the spatial layout of the central part of the cemetery, how it interacted with the landscape and how it may have functioned as a locus of ritual activity at the time of the funeral and afterward. In addition to the ritual deposits found at the corners of the pillared halls, the open spaces between the structure and complexes have revealed interesting evidence for ritual activities. Despite the disturbed state of the cemetery, faunal remains, ceramics and other artifacts from these open spaces can clearly be differentiated from material originating from the plundered tombs. Analysis of this material is providing insights into activities undertaken in these spaces with implications for how we should understand the significance of certain artefact classes.

Wednesday 16 April 2014

Session 7: Funerary Archaeology

Chair : Renee FRIEDMAN

9:05-9:30

CZEKAJ-ZASTAWNY Agnieszka, KABACIŃSKI Jacek & IRISH Joel D.

Late Neolithic neonates' cemetery of Gebel Ramlah, Western Desert of Egypt.

9:30-9:55

PIERI Anna & ANTOINE Daniel

Dwarfism in Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt: new evidence from the Elite cemetery HK 6, Hierakonpolis.

9:55-10:20

HILL Jane & ROSADO Maria A.

Mummification practices in Predynastic Egypt. A view from the Penn Museum Collections.

10:20-10:45

VANTHUYNE Bart

Rock circle cemeteries in the 15th and 16th Upper Egyptian nomes.

10:45-11:15 Coffee break

11:15-11:40

KOHSE Antje

Irregular burials: An overview from the Predynastic Period to the Early Old Kingdom.

11:40-12:05

TRISTANT Yann

The 1st Dynasty funerary boats of Abu Rawash.

12:05-12:30

ROWLAND Joanne

Times of change: investigating change in the late 3rd/early 4th millennium BCE through the burials at Kafr Hassan Dawood, Eastern Nile Delta.

12:30-13:00 Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch

Session 8: Cult and Ritual

Chair : Krzysztof M. CIALOWICZ

14:30-14:55

CERVELLO AUTUORI Josep

Ritual Architecture and Symbolic Landscape in 1st Dynasty Egypt.

14:55-15:20

WŁODARSKA Magdalena

Some Remarks on the Construction Process of the Khasekhemui's Enclosure at Abydos in the light of Recent Excavations.

15:20-15:45

KNOBLAUCH Christian

Royal Cult at the Birth of the Egyptian State. The Pottery from the Royal Enclosures "Aha II" and "III" at Abydos.

15:45-16:10

ORMELING Rinus

Planning the construction of the 1st Dynasty mastabas at Saqqara.

16:10-16:35

ROSIŃSKA-BALIK Karolina

Ancient Building Technology on the Threshold of the Dynastic Egypt.

16:35-17:00 Discussion

Poster Session 2

17:15-18:30

ABD EL MAGUID MOHAMED Mostafa, TRISTANT Yann, GEHAD Basem, BRIOIS François, ABDELRAHMAN Mohamed, MOHAMED Nour, RAGEB Mohamed & MEDHAT Abdlerahman

Materials and Aspect of Technology for the First Dynasty Boat found at Abu Rawash in 2012.

ABU STET Dalia

Cultural Exchange between Egypt and the Levant during the Pre- and Early-Dynastic Periods.

GIRARDI Chloé

Diversité du traitement des corps dans la nécropole prédynastique de Naga ed-Deir (N7000).

IBRAHIM Heba-Tallah A. A.

A View of Nabta Playa Megalithic Structures and their possible implications.

HOOD Amber, DEE Michael, DITCHFIELD Peter, SCHWENNINGER Jean-Luc, BRONK RAMSEY Christopher

A Tale of Six Vessels: A multidisciplinary approach to the analysis of six Predynastic and Early Dynastic vessels from Abydos, Ballas and Naqada.

OWNBY Mary & MACZYŃSKA Agnieszka

Pottery Technology and Imports from Tell el-Farkha.

PAWLIKOWSKI Maciej, SŁOWIOCZEK Edyta

Mineralogical investigation of sorption of charcoal from Archaeological site Tel el-Farkha, Nile Delta (Egypt).

TAMORRI Veronica

New perspectives on practices of funerary body manipulation in Predynastic Egypt.

TASSIE Geoffrey, ROWLAND Joanne M., HASSAN Fekri A. & VAN WETERING Joris

More Potmarks from the Protodynastic to Early Dynastic site of Kafr Hassan Dawood, Wadi Tumilat, East Delta, Egypt.

Thursday 17 April 2014

Session 9: Craft Specialization

Chair : Marek CHLODNICKI

9:30-9:55

NELSON Kit, KHALIFA Eman & HILL Rebecca

Caching Behavior and its importance to understanding changing stone tool production and human mobility during the Late/Final Neolithic in the Egyptian Western Desert.

9:55-10:20

KINDERMANN Karin

Considerations about significant stone artefacts – scrapers in Predynastic and Dynastic Egypt.

10:20-10:45

TAKAMIYA Izumi H.

Reconsideration on the development of specialization in Predynastic Egypt: A recent view from Hierakonpolis.

10:45-11:30 Coffee break

11:30-11:55

BABA Masahiro

Emergence of Industrial Production Activities during the Naqada II period at Hierakonpolis.

11:55-12:20

FLORES Jérémie

Économie et société au Protodynastique.

12:20-12:50 Discussion

13:00-14:30 Lunch

Session 10: Egyptian State and Society

Chair : Christiana KÖHLER

14:30-14:55

CAMPAGNO Marcelo

Patronage in Early Egypt?

14:55-15:20

GIANNESE Alberto

Conflict-related representations in the 4th millennium Egypt. A study on ideology of violence.

15:20-15:45

DI PIETRO Grazia A.

Re-investigating Naqada's role in the formation process of the Egyptian state.

15:45-16:15 Discussion

16:15 Conclusion

Poster Session 3

17:15-18:30

ANGEVIN Raphaël

Work and knife. Early Dynastic bifacial production and craft specialization: a view from Umm el-Qaab and Abu Rawash.

HART Elizabeth

Stones, Status, and Ceremony: An assessment of the Development of Specialization through lithic evidence from el-Mahâsna, Abydos South, and Nag el-Qarmila

HOOD Amber & SCHWENNINGER Jean-Luc

Illuminating Early Dynastic Egypt: absolute dating of Early Dynastic ceramics using optically stimulated luminescence dating.

MARTÍN DEL RÍO ÁLVAREZ Candelaria

The geometric decoration in the rods of hairpins from Upper Egypt: a proposal of organization and chronology.

MIMMO Maria Grazia

A Protodynastic Jar of the Gregorian Egyptian Museum

NAGAYA Kazuyoshi

Experimental Studies on Perforation Technology with Micro-drills during the Predynastic Period.

UGLIANO Federica

Body adornment and construction of personhood: artefacts from Fondazione Museo delle Antichità Egizie (Turin, Italy) and the Italian contribution to the study of Predynastic Egypt.

Friday 18 April 2014

Post-conference field trip to the Nile Delta. Visit of Tell el-Iswid and Tell el-Farkha sites

Optional post-conference field trip to the Nile Delta will be offered on Friday 18 April. This excursion is only available to registered conference attendees (maximum number of participants: 35). If you have already registered for the conference, you can register for the excursion separately at the registration desk on Sunday 13 April (within the limit of the available seats). The excursion cost is 50€ including a light lunch.

Trip will depart from IFAO on Friday morning (7am) and return in the late afternoon (7pm). Please plan on arriving at the bus loading area at least 15 minutes before the scheduled departure time for your trip.

The tour will include the visit two Predynastic and Early Dynastic sites : Tell el-Iswid and Tell el-Farkah, currently excavated by the French expedition led by B. Midant-Reynes (Ifao) and the Polish expedition directed by K.M. Ciałowicz (Jagiellonian University, Cracow) and Marek Chłodnicki (Archaeological Museum, Poznań). Under the guidance of the archaeologists you will have the opportunity to visit sites not generally open to visitors

A light lunch will be served at Tell el-Farkha before the visit of the excavation. Departure from the site is planned at 4pm for a return to Cairo at 7pm.

Abstracts



POSTER

ABD EL MAGUID MOHAMED Mostafa¹, TRISTANT Yann², GEHAD Basem¹, BRIOIS François³, ABDELRAHMAN Mohamed¹, MOHAMED Nour¹, RAGEB Mohamed¹ & MEDHAT Abdlerahman¹

Materials and Aspect of Technology for the First Dynasty Boat found at Abu Rawash in 2012.

¹The Grand Egyptian Museum, Giza, Egypt

²Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia

³Ehess, Toulouse, France

Presenting author: Basem Gehad (Basemgehad2013@gmail.com)

Just after the excavation carried out by Ifao/Macquarie University during the summer 2012, the Early Dynastic boat found at Abu Rawash was transported to the Grand Egyptian Museum Conservation Centre, a place where it could receive the appropriate intensive care. In the special projects lab, an Egyptian-French team adopted the most modern techniques to study the ancient materials and technology used to manufacture the boat, as well as to retrieve its original shape and dimensions.

The investigation of longitudinal, tangential and transverse sections of wood samples using Scanning Electron Microscope imaging allowed the identification of wood species (*Acacia nilotica*). Its state of degradation was assisted by means of Fourier Transform Infra-red and X-Ray Diffraction, where the crystallinity of the cellulose inside the wood was determined. Two types of plant remains were found inside the lashing holes, representing the remains of ropes or perhaps a mat. Using stereo microscope, the plant remains were identified to be papyrus (*Cyperus papyrus*) and esparto grass (*Macrochloa tenacissima*). Dating of the wood was performed using radiocarbon dating technology, at IFAO Radio Carbon dating lab, indicating that the boat probably dates back to the First dynasty, more precisely from the reign of king Den, as confirmed by the material found during the excavation of the cemetery.

The importance of the boat comes first from its dating, as it is the most ancient boat preserved today in Egypt, and secondly from its technology. This poster reports some of the challenges and benefits of the ongoing research.

POSTER

ABU STET Dalia¹

Cultural exchange between Egypt and the Levant during Pre- and Early Dynastic times.

¹ Faculty of Tourism and Hotels, Alexandria University, Egypt

Presenting author: Dalia Abu Stet (daliaabustet@yahoo.com)

Early interactions between the pre-dynastic ancient Egyptians and their contemporary Levantine neighbors resulted in a wide range of cultural influences. This is not only documented in an excessive goods exchange program but it also affected the mythological, spiritual and intellectual development of both peoples. This paper aims to study and interpret the documented evidence of material culture transfer, as well as to investigate possible further cultural transfers between Egypt and the Levant during the Pre- and Early Dynastic periods.

Goods exchange on both grounds is documented since prehistoric times. Foreign trade with the Southern Levant within a military/diplomatic context has remarkably increased as documented in Proto-Dynastic and Early-Dynastic evidence. A new and distinctive pottery, which was related to the pottery of the Southern Levant, appeared in Egypt during this time. The tomb U-j at the Umm el Qa'ab cemetery in Abydos associated with Scorpion I, contained more than 400 clay vessels imported from southern Palestine, which would strongly indicate a widespread trade pattern. There is evidence to suggest that Egyptian traders lived amongst the Levantine local population during Narmer's time. Many items of Syro-Palestinian origin, particularly wine and oil, are attested by pottery jugs and vases found in Djer's, Djety's and Den's tombs. The earliest known example of the title "Overseer of the Foreign Land" occurring on two seal-impressions from Khasekhemwy's funerary enclosure at Abydos, seems to point toward a good deal of activity outside Egypt's borders during this reign. The attestations of Khasekhemwy discovered in the Egyptian temple area at Byblos suggest the Levant as the foreign candidate.

The prosperous program of goods exchange suggests a parallel ground for spiritual and intellectual interaction as well as mythological transfers. The "star flower", for example, seems to represent a mythological concept employed by the cultures of the Ancient Near East and Egypt. This flower pattern- often described as a rosetta - above the "scorpion" ideogram of the

proto-dynastic ruler's name Scorpion II, may be a direct adaption of the Near Eastern Mythology. Another concern is to investigate the origin of the "eye"-myth associated with the struggle of Horus and Seth as a cultural transfer adapted from the Levant. The sky falcon Horus and the mythical desert animal Seth represent the Egyptian candidates for the predatory cat and the wicked bull in the parallel struggle version associated with the moon-phenomena in prehistoric Near Eastern Mythology.

POSTER

ANGEVIN Raphaël¹

Work and knife. Early Dynastic bifacial production and craft specialization: a view from Umm el-Qaab and Abu Rawash.

¹ Université Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, UMR 7041 ArScAn, Paris, France

Presenting author: Raphaël Angevin (raphael.angevin@culture.gouv.fr)

In Predynastic Egypt, bifacial productions are part of an evolutionary line which can be followed throughout all the entire 4th millennium. Present since the Neolithic period in the Nile Valley and Fayoum, they demonstrate the posterity of some local traditions related to flint bifacial shaping. From Badari and more clearly during Naqada I, the development of a high-tech investment production is, however, expressed in the hypertrophy of craft models developed in domestic or agricultural context. In this regard, flint seems increasingly sought; in the middle of the 4th millennium, the quantitative and qualitative “explosion” of value-added products in funerary context (Naqada II ripple-flaked knives, forked-lances, etc.) reflects a higher “sensitivity” of typological corpus and a greater refinement of skills and knowledge. Echoes of the novelties introduced a few centuries earlier, Early Dynastic bifacial productions illustrate a radical “subversion” of technical and economic choices, but also of social forms and value systems attached to the stone tools. Through the example of lithic funeral viaticum of the royal tombs of Umm el-Qaab, and from the elite necropolis of Abu Rawash, we will try to highlight the trends that are reflected in the technology of chipped-stone industries at the end of this process, in order to measure its socioeconomic inferences in terms of craft specialization, but also of production control.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

ANSELIN Alain¹

Iconographies, oralitures, hiéroglyphie. Quelques réflexions sur les contextes culturels de l'apparition de l'écriture.

¹ *Cahiers Caribéens d'Égyptologie*, Université des Antilles-Guyane, France

Presenting author: Alain Anselin (alain.anselin0497@orange.fr)

Les cultures prédynastiques des espaces saharo-nubiens et de l'oasis linéaire du Nil abondent en iconographies portées sur rochers, poteries, palettes, manches de couteau... Elles ont pu impliquer rituels et oralitures d'une *conjonction* au monde, pourvoyeurs de statut social pour les acteurs en *position* d'officiant.

En l'absence de toute forme de textes les accompagnant, l'auteur s'efforce de déceler sous les icônes les métaphores conceptuelles, et dans leur agencement la trace de référence à des modèles linguistiques usuels dans des pratiques langagières cérémonielles.

Il distingue la première moitié d'un millénaire nagadéen de « *farming* sociétés », caractérisée par la scénographie d'un *hunting* sacrificiel (hippopotames, crocodiles, bovinés) où *conjonction* et *position* avancent ensemble, parfois imagées par la figure ambivalente du *binding* (encordage), et la seconde moitié du millénaire (Nagada II-III), marquée :

– par une représentation croissante de figures humaines masculines où le *fighting* royal développe le *hunting* qui lui a fourni espaces d'émulation sociale et paradigmes culturels de *conjonction* ;

– et par l'apparition en nombre limité de libellés iconographiques gouvernés par les règles invisibles de la langue -mettant l'accent sur l'opposition de la figure, singulière, d'un sujet à celle, tripliquée, de ses attributs, par lesquels il *s'identifie*.

Ces libellés offrent des points de comparaison avec les inscriptions hiéroglyphiques des premiers Horus usant également de triels pour le pluriel dans des constructions nominales et des tournures génitives de noms de domaines.

Cette mise en perspective suggère que le millénaire des iconographies nagadéennes a pu être aussi, celui, cristallisant la *parole* en bien politique *performatif*, des *oralitures religieuses*. Celles-ci ont pu laisser leur nom, *mdw ntr*, au système de signes, *écrits*, employé dans la déictique monumentale de

l'élite des Dynasties 0-II, tandis que les exigences administratives, *informatives* et comptables de l'apparatus royal conduisaient au développement d'une version *cursive* usuelle - sur des supports périssables.

L'iconographie des palettes, manches de couteaux, peignes et poteries disparaîtra ainsi avec l'apparition d'un nouveau bien politique, *l'écriture* - mais bien des signes iconiques employés dans la graphie des sémogrammes et des phonogrammes de l'écriture égyptienne proviendront des horizons nagadéens. Et, associés à une iconographie signifiante, les textes hiéroglyphiques, funéraires notamment, eux-mêmes gravés et peints, seront autant de formules destinées à être lues, *dites* par un officiant, à l'Ancien Empire.

Là où le neuf surgit, toujours l'ancien abonde.

POSTER

ATANASSOVA Vessela¹

Name or Title in the Early Dynastic Inscriptions?

¹ Paris IV-Sorbonne, Paris, France / New Bulgarian University, Bulgaria

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The Early Dynastic inscriptions consist mostly of names or titles of individuals working in the Egyptian administration. Unfortunately, we are still facing difficulties in understanding when it is a title or a name, because of the particularities of the Egyptian writing of this period. Our research sheds some new light on the distinction between a title and a name. We studied especially the case of the term *ḥm* “servant,” which can be found in both titles and names from the 1st Dynasty on. The study of its occurrences shows that there was a precise difference in the writing of a name and that of a title. The Egyptians expressed this difference with the use of phonetic complements. Whenever it was a name they used phonetic signs with the same phonetic value as the term in question, in order to point out that it was not a title. On the contrary, in the case of a title, they do not use a phonetic complement.

The understanding of these particularities in the Early Dynastic writing can advance our knowledge of its formation. Some additional research on the subject using the same kind of methodology can be very fruitful. It can confirm that the first Egyptian writings were already well organized, and that there were some important rules strictly followed from its very beginning. The understanding of these rules can help us to provide a better comprehension of the whole textual material from the very beginning of Egyptian history.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

BABA Masahiro¹

Emergence of Industrial Production Activities during the Naqada II period at Hierakonpolis.

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Recent excavations in HK11C at Hierakonpolis have revealed new evidence of intensive food production activities. HK11C is the large Predynastic settlement area located on the southern terrace of the Wadi Abu Suffian where a well-preserved complex consisting of five pit-kilns for pottery production and five freestanding vats, probably for brewing beer, was uncovered at Operation B (HK11C grid squares B4-5). This installation apparently worked as a highly integrated production facility and operated on an industrial scale.

Further investigations of the adjacent area uncovered a structure built of hand-made mud-bricks at Square C3-4. The structure has a roughly rectangular plan and measures 7m long and 6m wide, inside of which test excavations revealed a number of hearths on the charcoal-rich floor. The large number of bones and scales of fish found in and around the hearths suggest a function with regard to fish processing, such as smoking. Although the excavation of its interior is still going on, the size of the structure may indicate that the production activity conducted here is on a scale far beyond the domestic. This suggestion is supported by the finds from the exterior of the structure where more than 1100 intentionally modified pieces of soft sandstone were retrieved. Carefully arranged piles of these stones were found placed in 23 pits as well as a jar embedded upright in the ground. As the structure is related to food production, it is possible that the stones were used to record deliveries of raw materials such as fuel and fish, and/or the dispatches of the final product. Thus, these shaped stones may have served as the counter or token to record work rates.

These newly discovered production facilities in Square C3-4 can be dated to within the Naqada II period, after the Operation B complex had been abandoned and brewing activities were moved 10m to the north, to Operation A. Overall, however, the production activities at HK11C correspond to the duration of the elite cemetery at HK6 located a short distance further up the wadi. The temporal and spatial relationship between the two localities suggests that developing industrial activities may have emerged to service the needs of the elite groups and sustain their complex society.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

BAJEOT Jade¹, FRANGIPANE Marcella¹ & ZAMPETTI Daniela¹

Researches of the Sapienza University of Rome in the site of Maadi (Lower Egypt): topography and artefacts in a chronological perspective.

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The topic of this paper concerns the first results of the still unpublished Italian documentation, obtained during the six excavation campaigns carried out from 1977 to 1986 in the well known predynastic site of Maadi (IV mill. B.C.). The investigation, conducted by the *Italian Mission for the Researches in Egypt and Sudan* under the direction of S. M. Puglisi and A. Palmieri, covered an area of around 450sqm. The excavation was located in the eastern part of the ancient settlement, diametrically opposite to the more recent digging undertaken by the German Archaeological Institute.

This part of the settlement was characterized by light dwelling structures and by the presence of household goods linked to the everyday activities, such as *pithoi* and vases for storing and cooking, lithic tools, lined pits, grinding stones, etc. In general a maximum of three occupational phases were observed with the more substantial one lying on the virgin soil, the more compact and steady of the upper sandy soil. Above it, alternated to waste layers, there were traces of burnt settlement levels. The ceramic is handmade and, as in the old excavations, the more representative forms are the oval ring-base and the globular pots. The homogeneity of the dimensions of the vases and the higher incidence of a determinate surface treatment and color for every type of pot could indicate a prior functional planning of these containers, as for example the conservation of a certain type of product. The chipped stone assemblage includes 4,000 pieces and is composed by cores, flakes, blades, bladelets, retouched tools and one sample of a slate sub-rectangular palette with incisions. The raw material is mainly flint, but quartzite, quartz and fossilized wood was also in use. The technological analysis highlighted the presence of different knapping techniques, maybe aiming at different functional toolkits connected to the working activities attested in this area of the site. The occurrence of possibly non-local artefacts like the so-called “tabular flint scrapers”, Canaanite blades

and specific ceramic forms will be discussed both in a socio-economic and in a chronological perspective.

The Italian documentation presents the first occasion to complete the information contained in the past monographs about the first excavations done at Maadi, deepening the stratigraphic aspect which is fundamental for the understanding of the dynamics of formation and development of the site and in general of the Lower Egypt Predynastic culture, and to reconsider this site in the light of the latest research made in the Nile Delta.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

CAMPAGNO Marcelo¹

Patronage in Early Egypt?

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Theoretical studies on the emergence of primary states – and more generally, on ancient societies – have mainly relied on two perspectives that correspond to different analytical traditions, and therefore they are usually not related to each other. On the one hand, the “anthropological” perspective has emphasized, in various ways, the importance of kinship in pre-state organizations as well as the new features that the emergence of the State introduces in them. On the other hand, a “sociological” – Weberian – perspective has considered the problem in terms of the expansion of pre-existing forms of patrimonialism or patronage related to household dynamics. However, both perspectives provide analytical criteria which does not necessarily have to remain separate. If the problem is considered from the viewpoint of the logics of social organization, kinship and the state as well as patronage can be identified as different modes of social existence, which can coexist in the configuration of a given society.

It is true that, regarding the process of emergence of the Egyptian state, dynamics related to kinship and the state have received more attention than those related to patronage. The latter, based on the available evidence, has been identified in later periods of the Egyptian history, such as the First Intermediate Period, where the prevalence of extra-kinship criteria of social subordination that is not directly linked to the monopoly of coercion can be detected. Although it has been proposed that these forms of patronage thrive because of the crisis of the state, the same lines of evidence that indicate the existence of patronage in the First Intermediate Period are also available for the Old Kingdom, This allows one to think that patronage could also thrive within the framework of the state dynamics. When could this correlation between state and patronage have taken place? The main problem in this direction is, as usual, the lack of evidence. However, the organization of the space in some early state cemeteries as well as certain officials’ “rank” titles such as *smr* or *šms*, are already present in the Early Dynastic Period. This allows us to suspect that patronage practices may have been older and in fact may have been of great importance for the structuring of the Egyptian society on the threshold of the third millennium BC.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

CERVELLÓ-AUTUORI Josep¹

Monumental Funerary Architecture and Ritual Landscape in 1st Dynasty Egypt.

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The aim of this presentation is to reflect on the royal «ritual funerary landscape» in the 1st Dynasty of Egypt and on the «marks» of this landscape from two basic premises:

1) A funerary monument (tomb or ritual enclosure) is above all a «ritual artefact», that is, an anthropic creation with specific mythical and ritual motivations and purposes. Its ultimate significance cannot be inferred from its pure physical or material dimension or from its economic implications, but only from the funerary symbolism and ritual underlying it, which explain its location and structure and from which all its other formal and social aspects depend. The problem of the possible lack or scarcity of sources to inquire into the beliefs of the early Egyptians does not negate or invalidate this major premise. To come to conclusions may be difficult, especially with regard to historical contexts without writing, but the symbolic-ritual motivation of the monuments in question is always present. On the other hand, we must open our methods to the symbolic and spatial archaeology, the anthropology and the history of religions to make inferences.

2) In the history of the royal funerary monuments of ancient Egypt we can observe a meaningful alternation of two basic and opposite patterns. If we observe the question from the point of view of the «longue durée» as defined by Fernand Braudel, we can recognize a «structure» which implies a mythological and ritual opposition. In fact, on the one hand, we have a «chthonic» pattern which implies a tomb «non-marked» from the point of view of the «visibility» in the landscape and located right in the desert (it is a «hidden» tomb) which is complemented by an enclosure for ritual purposes topographically separated from the tomb itself and located on the edge of the desert, in front of the cultivated land. The first one adheres to the «mythical reason» of the funerary cult, whereas the second one obeys to its «social», i.e., «ritual reason». Well known examples of this pattern are the Thinite complexes at Abydos and the Theban complexes of the New Kingdom. On the other hand,

we have an «aerial» pattern which implies a tomb «marked» from the point of view of the «visibility» in the landscape and located according to this need of visibility (in an escarpment of the desert facing the cultivated land, if it is a small monument, and right in the desert, if it is a great monument) which is eventually complemented by funerary temples always located adjacent to the tomb itself. Examples of this second pattern are, of course, the pyramids, but also the Memphite great niched mastabas of the 1st Dynasty.

We will discuss all these topics and we will come back once again to the question of the function and significance of the 1st Dynasty niched mastabas of the Memphite region, now taking into account an enlarged topographical context (the Memphite necropolis rather than specifically Saqqara) and from a different sociological approach (the «builder» instead of the «owner» of the tomb).

ORAL COMMUNICATION

CHŁODNICKI Marek¹

From the storage pit to the silo. Storage devices from Predynastic to Early Dynastic times. A view from Tell el-Farkha.

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Storage and the redistribution of goods is one of the most important aspects of the ancient Egyptian economy, and a significant factor of the forming of state organization. Storage – mostly grain, but also other agricultural products – local as well as imported (olive oil, wine), needs not only necessary containers but also places for storing them. It could be a separate space inside the houses as well as separate buildings used only for that purpose.

The oldest storage devices are pits dug in the soil, known from the Lower Egyptian culture. These pits have 1 – 1,5 m in diameter and their walls were often covered by a layer of mud. Storage pits occur separately or in concentrations. Such concentration was recognized on the eastern side of the Lower Egyptian “residence”.

During the Naqadian times separate rooms inside the houses were used for storage. The products were stored in huge storage vessels and baskets. Most of these spaces were used for the gathering of goods on the level of the household, not as a central (state) storage facility. A bigger storage space was connected with the so called Naqadian residence which most probably belongs to the person who supervised trade between Upper Egypt, Nile Delta and Levant.

In the last seasons we discovered a huge building, contemporary with the Naqadian residence (Naqada IIIA). Although preserved only partially, it is difficult to imagine another function than storage. The building stands on the edge of the village, near the Nile channel, some distance from other domestic buildings. It has very thick, up to 1,5 m, outer walls and 1 m thick walls between the rooms and the courtyard. Rooms were 7 m long and 3 m wide. There is a very narrow entrance leading to each room from the courtyard. A row of three rooms has been recognized on the eastern side of the building; the western and southern part of the construction was destroyed.

During Naqada IIIB rounded structures often interpreted as silos became common. At the beginning they are located inside the houses, and from the Naqada IIIC most of them are outside, often forming a group. In Early Dynastic

times these rounded structures covered a considerable part of the site. They have thin walls and 1-3 m in diameter although examples with 4-5 m in diameter also occur. Although probably not all of the structures were used for storage (particularly the larger ones), the majority of them may have been. Models of silos discovered in the Early Dynastic grave at Tell el-Farkha confirm their importance in Egyptian economy.

The biggest rounded structure at Tell el-Farkha was a building with the interior 7 m in diameter, which was encompassed by a double wall. Each wall was 90 cm thick. This building, built probably in the middle of the 1st Dynasty, seems to play a role of a central granary. At that time Tell el-Farkha lost its important position as a trade center, and probably became a royal estate. Most of the site inhabited at that time was covered by smaller granaries and storage devices.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

CIAŁOWICZ Krzysztof M.¹

Beginnings of the Egyptian State. View from the Eastern Nile Delta.

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Excavations at Tell el-Farkha started 16 years ago and changed a lot of theories connected with beginnings of the Egyptian State. Other new data has been collected at the many sites explored and surveyed in the Eastern Delta during the last years. The Eastern Delta was very tightly settled during the Pre- and Protodynastic period. At least one important centre must be in so densely populated area. Up till now Tell el-Farkha has been the best candidate. According to modern researches some new possibilities could be taken in consideration:

1. Contribution of Delta in formation of Egyptian state is much bigger than it was earlier supposed.

2. Lower Egyptian society was much more stratified than it was considered. At the head of it stood the local elite, which supervised trade with the East and South and established the base for future relations.

3. Relations between Lower and Upper Egypt during the Lower Egyptian culture, were much stronger than it was presumed.

4. First Naqadians came to the Eastern Delta as tradesmen or settlers but with the permission of the Lower Egyptian elite.

5. Mastaba as a type of grave was introduced in the Delta.

6. Possibly the idea of setting up the foundations or estates for posthumous cult also originated from Delta.

7. People working on monumental constructions were, at least from Naqada IID, provided with beer, so the organization of work had to be on a high level.

8. Phase between Naqada IIIA and the middle of IIIB seem to be the period of competition between most influential Naqadian proto kingdoms

9. Settlers connected with different political centers arrived at the Delta, which is visible in local differentiations, especially in burial customs.

10. Iry-Hor was probably the first known named king who ruled over all Egypt, and he finished the mentioned rivalry.

11. From the Lower Egyptian culture (at least from Naqada IIB) until middle of the 1st Dynasty, Tell el-Farkha was one of the most important towns, not only in the Eastern Delta, but in all Egypt.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

CLAES Wouter¹, HENDRICKX Stan², DEVILLERS Anne¹, HART Elizabeth³, KINDERMANN Karin⁴, DE DAPPER Morgan⁵, IKRAM Salima⁶, SWERTS Carla², STORMS Geertrui² & HUYGE Dirk¹

From the early Old Kingdom to the Badarian: recent excavations in the settlement area of Elkab

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Since 2009, the Belgian Archaeological Mission to Elkab has shifted its attention from the rock necropolis to the settlement area of the ancient town site.

Directly north-west of the temple zone lies a vast area that is partly surrounded by the so-called 'Double Walls'. These date to the end of the Old Kingdom and have always been considered to be the enclosure wall of the ancient town. Inside this wall once stood a tell, which, based on information of 19th century travellers, must have been at least 30 m high. The archaeological material that was left behind by the *sebakhin* in this area indicates that the occupation dates back to at least the Old Kingdom. Although archaeologists have up to now always assumed that the tell had been entirely dug away, a detailed survey of the area's topography indicated that its actual surface is still considerably higher than the surrounding landscape. Moreover, a test pit executed in 1902 and 1904 made it clear that there was still archaeological material present to a depth of more than 1 m.

This was confirmed during two excavation seasons in 2009 and 2010, which revealed the presence of a vast habitation area dating to the late Early Dynastic Period and the early Old Kingdom, containing the remains of mud-brick constructions and several intact habitation horizons. The ceramological evidence points primarily to household activities related to food production and storage.

A 2 by 2 m test pit, excavated near this area to a depth of almost 4 m, indicated that the habitation dates back to Predynastic times and may even have originated in the Badarian period. Four additional test pits were excavated in 2012 and revealed a series of stratigraphically arranged occupation horizons, ranging from the Naqada IIC-D period to the Badarian, suggesting that the site of ElKab was continuously inhabited for over 1500 years. These excavations moreover confirm the presence of the Badarian culture far south of the Badari core region.

The preliminary results at ElKab suggest outstanding research opportunities for our understanding of both Predynastic and early pharaonic settlement dynamics. They may help to elucidate the way in which a prehistoric settlement gradually evolved and transformed into a fully urbanized society of historic times.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

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Egypt, Nile Delta and the Near East: Early contacts in context.

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The problem of Egypt's foreign relations during the time of state formation has been present in modern scholarly debate for more than 50 years. Many archeologists were trying to reveal the nature of the contacts. The widely accepted theory now says that Naqadians established colony in the Southern Levant. Unfortunately this and other explanations underestimate the role of the Nile Delta in the relations which joined the emerging Egyptian state with the Near East. Recent excavations, such as those conducted by the Polish Team at Tell el-Farkha and Tell el-Murra, or by IFAO at Tell el-Iswid, shed a new light on the topic in question. It seems that the contacts between Egypt and the Near East were based not on demographic expansion but rather on commercial relations, in which the Nile Delta played an important role as a center of goods redistribution. It is now clear that all these contacts were controlled and monopolized by the emerging Egyptian state.

Of the greatest importance are the works undertaken at Tell el-Farkha. Detailed study has shown that a large part of local economy was based on long distance trade that was controlled by elites. Olive oil, wine, copper, bitumen and other raw materials were exchanged and transported through Tell el-Farkha. In exchange were commodities from Upper Egypt and local products, such as surpluses of grain or fish and pig meat, together with precious items produced in local workshops. It seems that Tell el-Farkha was a starting point for caravans leading to the Levant.

During our presentation we would like to show new data collected during the work on Tell el-Farkha, specifically discussing its role in long distance trade. I will try to find an answer to the question about the role of local elites, seeing it from the angle of spatial distribution of Southern Levantine pottery at the site, and the type of objects circulated between Upper Egypt and the Southern Levant, to show the role of the Nile Delta in the foreign relations of the emerging Egyptian state. To receive the full picture of these relations, all data will be presented based on deep analyses of the socio-political changes in Egypt and the Levant during the Naqada II- III period.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

CZEKAJ -ZASTAWNY Agnieszka¹, IRISH Joel D.² & KABACIŃSKI Jacek³

Late Neolithic neonates' cemetery of Gebel Ramlah, Western Desert of Egypt.

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Gebel Ramlah is an isolated mountain located ca. 150 km west of Abu Simbel. Along the southern slopes of the gebel a paleo-lake (*playa*) was present since the beginning of the Holocene. On the shores of this lake were numerous settlements of early, middle, and late Neolithic hunters-gatherers-herders. The Gebel Ramlah area is already known for its Final Neolithic cemeteries excavated at the beginning of XXI century (for details see Kobusiewicz, Kabaciński, Schild, Irish, Gatto and Wendorf 2010, *Gebel Ramlah. Final Neolithic Cemeteries from the Western Desert of Egypt, Poznań*). In the years 2009-2013 another cemetery was recorded and excavated; it is composed of 38 inhumations, including double burials. The site is unique in that most inhumations are of neonates or even pre-neonates --accompanied in a few cases by graves of adult women with neonates. For the moment it is the oldest cemetery in the Egyptian Western Desert, dated to ca. mid Vth millennium BC. It is also the first known hunters-gatherers-herders graveyard to be defined according to the age of the interred individuals.

This paper for the first time presents complete results of the archaeological research at the cemetery, including descriptions of graves, details of anthropological characteristics of the inhumations, possible cultural affiliations, and results of radiocarbon dating.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

DI PIETRO Grazia A.¹

Re-investigating Naqada's role in the formation process of the Egyptian state.

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The aim of the paper is to present results of the writer's doctoral research project, conducted at the University of Naples "L'Orientale" (or UNO) and completed in 2011. The project has been aimed at re-evaluating the role of Naqada in the sequence of social, economic, political and cultural development of the late Egyptian prehistory and in the formation process of the ancient Egyptian state, based on the evidence collected at the site by the Italian Archaeological Mission of the "Istituto Universitario Orientale", Naples (today UNO), between 1977 and 1986 (director: C. Barocas; co-principal investigators: R. Fattovich, M. Tosi), and in light of new discoveries made in the last decades. As part of this project, the writer has examined thoroughly the unpublished data produced during nine seasons of excavation and survey carried out by the Italian team at Naqada and has conducted a detailed documentation and analysis of the ceramic and miscellaneous small finds collected within the aforementioned archaeological investigations, during three study seasons spent in Egypt (2008-2009). Among the results of this study are: a clearer definition of the chronology of the settlement of Naqada; an increased knowledge of its socio-economic organization and possible function within its regional context; the elaboration of a tentative model of development of the site during the Pre- and Early Dynastic period. While results of this research project will be included in the final report of the Italian Archaeological Mission at Naqada, which is currently in preparation for publication, an overview of them will be presented together with their broader implications for further elucidating the process of state formation in Egypt.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

FLORES Jérémie¹

Économie et société au Protodynastique.

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Les documents inscrits datant des trois premières dynasties permettent d'apprécier les débuts du fonctionnement de l'État en Égypte. L'analyse des institutions et des appareils économiques constitue en ce sens un moyen d'approche privilégié, et renseigne de plus le contexte social.

Dès le Protodynastique, il faut distinguer les unités productives des institutions de gestion qui agissent dans un second temps. Pour les premières, on compte d'abord les domaines royaux, principalement établis dans le Delta du Nil, puis, au moins dès la III^e dynastie, des *ḥw.t-ḥ.t* et des *pr-d.t* qui se rajoutent aux installations déjà existantes. Il est donc évident qu'entre la I^e et la III^e dynastie, on doit compter sur une transformation du territoire due à une politique de production et de collecte de plus en plus intensive. L'accroissement des revenus de la couronne n'est qu'une des conséquences de ce nouveau schéma. En effet, l'évolution du contexte de production entraîne logiquement une gestion plus complexe qu'auparavant. Les institutions *šnw.t* et *pr-ḥd* l'illustrent par l'emploi du duel. L'apparition du nouvel appareil économique *js-df* lors de la fin de la II^e dynastie montre également la nécessité d'adopter un modèle plus complexe.

Aux sources institutionnelles, on doit ajouter les organisations qui relèvent d'une autorité locale. En effet, grâce notamment aux empreintes de sceaux d'Elkab et d'Éléphantine, on sait que des céréales stockées dans des silos étaient gérées par des agents sur place à partir de la fin de la II^e dynastie. Ces derniers étant nommés selon des titres déjà connus en contexte institutionnel, il faut compter sur le rôle de la couronne comme l'organe qui impulse et soutient l'organisation de ces unités économiques locales. Davantage qu'auparavant, on observe donc à partir du règne de Khasekhemouy, une collaboration plus intense entre l'administration centrale et les élites provinciales. Différents indices montrent en effet que la tendance est clairement à la multiplication du nombre d'intermédiaires, tant à Memphis qu'en province. La couronne pouvait ainsi compter sur le concours de ces élites pour contrôler les ressources produites sur son territoire, et réaliser de grands projets comme par exemple l'érection des petites pyramides à degrés lors de la III^e dynastie.

La politique économique menée par la couronne entre la I^e et la III^e dynastie transforme progressivement le territoire et la société égyptienne. La collaboration des élites memphites et provinciales est un élément clé pour la production et la gestion des ressources au Protodynastique. Sur cet aspect, le fonctionnement de l'État à l'Ancien Empire hérite d'un modèle passé qui aboutira à l'émancipation de certains officiels lors de la PPI pour former des classes dirigeantes indépendantes.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

FRIEDMAN Renee¹ & DROUX Xavier²

Gebel Sheikh Suleiman Revisited.

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Despite the large amount of discussion engendered by the apparently Early Dynastic victory scene of prisoners and vanquished inscribed in raised relief at Gebel Sheikh Suleiman, to date, the published record relies exclusively on the fine photographs of A.J. Arkell published in *JEA* 36 (1950), and the drawings made from them of a varying selection of elements on this highly inscribed rock. During the Nubian Salvage, the rock face containing the relief was removed from its original location near Buhen at the Second Cataract and is now on display in the garden of the Khartoum National Museum. Through the kindness of the Sudanese National Corporation for Antiquities and Museums, the authors were recently allowed to copy the rock as preserved in its entirety using epigraphic methods and were able to scrutinize the several layers attesting to several periods of usage that are visible on it. This close study has generated new insights into the composition of the famous scene in its original and subsequent forms and a number of modifications to the published drawings.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

FRIEDMAN Renee¹, VAN NEER Wim² & DECUPERE Bea²

Spaces and Places at Hierakonpolis HK6.

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On-going excavations in the elite Predynastic and Early Dynastic cemetery HK6 at Hierakonpolis have revealed hitherto unexpected evidence of above-ground wooden architecture including a series of independent pillared halls, round and rectilinear superstructures above selected tombs, and networks of interconnected fences forming enclosures around certain tombs of both humans and animals, which combine together to form what we interpret as mortuary complexes. In addition, a fence wall appears to have surrounded at least the central part of the cemetery, bounding it on the east and north side, if not all four sides, seemingly separating it from the northern part of the cemetery where the majority of the Naqada III tombs were located. Exposure of a nearly contiguous area of roughly 4500 square meters now allows us to examine the spatial layout of the central part of the cemetery, how it interacted with the landscape and how it may have functioned as a locus of ritual activity at the time of the funeral and afterward. In addition to the ritual deposits found at the corners of the pillared halls, the open spaces between the structure and complexes have revealed interesting evidence for ritual activities. Despite the disturbed state of the cemetery, faunal remains, ceramics and other artifacts from these open spaces can clearly be differentiated from material originating from the plundered tombs. Analysis of this material is providing insights into activities undertaken in these spaces with implications for how we should understand the significance of certain artefact classes.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

GIANNESE Alberto¹

Conflict-related representations in the 4th millennium Egypt. A study on ideology of violence.

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Is evolution inextricably bound to violence? Does social complexity necessarily require coercion, at some point? Setting aside the contrasting myths of the “noble savage” and of the “homo homini lupus”, what does the data tell us? My research deals with the process of political unification in Early Egypt from an iconographic perspective.

Egyptian State formation and political unification, while intertwined, are not one and the same. If it is true that a real state was not in place in Egypt before the 3rd Dynasty, political unification is traditionally considered achieved by the reign of Narmer (3100 BC). Some scholars suggest that a substantial cultural (and possibly political) homogeneity was already in place (at least in Upper Egypt) by the early Naqada III. But the most successful theory about political unification involves competition among some five to eight major Upper Egyptian centres already in Naqada I, endemic war during Naqada II (or at least during its later part) and Naqada III, and the final conquest of the Nile Delta by Narmer or by some other earlier kingly figures.

However, no sound direct evidence (such as destruction levels or conspicuous cases of violent death) supports this theory. The indirect evidence can be summarized as increased social hierarchy, disappearance of some polities in favour of others and representations linkable to conflict. The first two typologies present some circular thinking and ultimately rely on the assumption that social complexity always calls for violence – exactly what we were trying to question at the beginning. The last typology is reanalyzed here, under the belief that representations shall not be used as historic account, but are very useful instruments to address ideology.

An iconographic analysis has been conducted elaborating Panofsky’s concepts of iconography and iconology; it invests 41 artefacts spanning from Naqada I to 2nd Dynasty. All of them show political power, more than military force.

Not only is the link between the motifs and warfare not often obvious, but over 1300 years, we observe paucity of clear battle scenes (only 3 representations),

the almost complete absence of the victorious soldiers, only a small number of representations portraying corpses (from 3 to 6), the exclusively royal character of the smiting scene, and a large predominance of captives over all other themes (27 scenes out of 41). The impression created is that one might be dealing with some sort of propaganda: there is the menace of violence, dominion, punishment and coercion, but war, even when portrayed, has no central role in this play. While conflicts must have happened, their importance for the process of political unification has been greatly exaggerated.

What we are witnessing is not a bloody struggle for the land, but the renewed ideology of uprising political groups. An ideology that seems to draw its themes from those spheres of life under the direct jurisdiction of the elite, namely development of large infrastructures and monopoly of forces (enforcing law and containing chaos).

POSTER

GIRARDI Chloé

Diversity in body treatment in the Predynastic cemetery at Naga ed-Deir (N7000).

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Labex ARCHIMEDE, programme IA ANR-11-LABX-0032-01

Predynastic necropolis N7000 at Naga ed-Deir is located on the east bank of the Nile, facing the city of Girga. Excavations took place from 1902 to 1904, under the supervision of A.M. Lythgoe, co-director of the Hearst Egyptian Expedition of the University of California. This cemetery was used from Early Nagada I through the Late Nagada II. In the field, it was noted that in most instances burials were disturbed. According to A.M. Lythgoe, this was due to plundering. Since Lythgoe's time, the cause of these disturbances has never been questioned, neither in the publication of this necropolis edited by D. Dunham several decades later, nor in studies of its artifacts, spatial organization and human remains that have been undertaken more recently.

Plundering at Naga ed-Deir cannot be denied. However, some of these disturbances may have been caused by intentional practices involving corpses. This type of *post mortem* or post sepulchral manipulation has been observed on several occasions in different Predynastic necropolises of the Naqadian culture, the culture to which the Naga ed-Deir cemetery belongs. An examination of the photographs published by D. Dunham and a reassessment of the Naga ed-Deir excavations in the light of findings from other Predynastic necropolises allow us to identify different cases of skull removal, the burial of isolated bones and secondary burials. Although these funerary acts remain atypical, they nonetheless reflect the diversity of body treatments at Naga ed-Deir and, therefore, also reflect the complexity of Predynastic funerary practices.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

GRAFF Gwenola¹, PIQUETTE Kathryn E.² & KELANY Adel³

Wadi Abu Subeira (East Concession): The complex hunting scene of Locus 10 and its implications for predynastic iconographies of social identity.

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In January 2013, the Franco-Egyptian Collaboration project for Wadi Abu Subeira began work in a new concession situated in the eastern side of the Wadi, adjacent to the western concession held by A. Kelany. The aim of this ongoing project is to survey and record rock art stations and archaeological features in order to further our understanding of this mode of artistic expression over time and in relation to the social identities of the people who inhabited this landscape.

The main findings of our first season of work included the identification of 33 rock art stations dating from the Epipalaeolithic to the present. Based on stylistic features and subject matter, numerous sites are datable to the predynastic Naqada phases and Early Dynastic Period.

Of particular note was the discovery in Locus 10 of a complex scene on a large partially-buried boulder. As cleaning progressed a hunting scene emerged, including 8 human figures and 37 animals. The hunting scene can be divided into four groups, three containing a central figure of a bull, whilst the fourth includes a comparatively larger human figure with upraised arms. Based on the style, it is possible to date this panel to the Naqada IIC-D phases. Due to surface weathering and challenges presented by natural lighting conditions, identification and conventional documentation of all scene elements proved difficult.

We therefore trialled an advanced digital imaging technique, “Reflectance Transformation Imaging.” A handheld flash or strobe is systematically applied from a slightly different location whilst taking a series of photographs of the target surface. The multiple exposures are combined using open access software to create a digital image of the surface that can be virtually relit,

giving a 3D appearance. Algorithmic rendering modes enable users to create enhanced visualisations of surface features, making study and archaeological illustration easier and more accurate. Our aim in trialling RTI was 3-fold: 1) to test the feasibility of applying this imaging technology in the challenging field environment of Wadi Subeira; 2) to assess the cost-effectiveness and potential for RTI to complement and augment conventional documentation techniques, including accurate illustration without recourse to the original surface; 3) to explore the potential of RTI to provide new data for analysis and interpretation.

As the results reveal, the high resolution images provide detailed shape information about the rock surface enabling study and analysis at a level of detail and rigour not previously feasible. Through comparison of this new scene with other known contemporary hunting scenes, we discuss the insights it provides into early hunting practices, particularly within the environment of the desert margins. We also consider the social implications of acts of marking the wadi landscape and how this may have fitted into the construction of Naqadian elite identity and prestige as part of hunting campaigns.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HARDTKE Frederick¹

The Boats of Hierakonpolis Revisited.

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In 1982, then in 1992, Michael Berger published articles dealing with the rock art at Hierakonpolis Locality HK61A, a type of material culture which had received little attention on a site known mainly for its archaeological localities. The boat motifs with their elaborate prow ornamentation carved into two facing boulders at HK61A remain amongst the most spectacular at the site, but should not be viewed in isolation. Recently the Hierakonpolis rock art survey has added much to the corpus of rock art at the site and also to the collection of boat motifs. This paper will review the boat motifs known to date from across the site as well as provide new insights into the original boats Berger described.

POSTER

HART Elizabeth¹

Stones, Status, and Ceremony: An assessment of the Development of Specialization through lithic evidence from el-Mahâsna, Abydos South, and Nag el-Qarmila.

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Recent excavations of Predynastic settlement sites provide new data for assessing the development of specialized production in Egypt. Current theories of how production became specialized mainly focus on the political benefits of sponsoring the production of prestige goods. The idea is that emerging elites got others to produce luxury items which were used to display their status, and forge alliances through exchange. While this model fits well with data on certain items, such as ripple-flaked knives or decorated ware ceramics, not all specialized production can be accounted for in this way. For instance, lithic blades are also thought to be produced by specialists, even earlier than the above mentioned items, but they have a much more widespread distribution, so they cannot be considered prestige goods. My dissertation project examines whether a ritual production model for the development of specialized production may apply in Egypt. This model stems from the observation that individual and communal ritual participation by members of entire populations can be a significant source of increased economic production. In a ritual production model, specialized goods are made for activities including social transactions, such as bridewealth payments, debts, or funerary gifts, as well as more communally encompassing ritual activities, such as harvest festivals.

A number of recent excavations that have targeted settlement remains provide the opportunity to take into account production sites and living areas. These contexts provide data on the activities of a range of social statuses, not just the ones that have left ample material records in their graves, and thus offer the possibility for a more encompassing picture. Lithic artifacts from el-Mahâsna, Abydos South and Nag el-Qarmila were analyzed. These sites date to NIC-IIAB, which permits an assessment of the early development of specialized production. At el-Mahâsna, the materials come from a structure for ritual activities (comparable in nature to HK29A) and several domestic

contexts. Abydos South, Nag el-Qarmila, and published data from other Nile Valley settlements provide inter- and intra-regional comparative material. Tool distribution, the distribution of production remains, raw material use, and tool modification are used to assess specialized production. Heat-treated tools, blades, bifacial tools, and the production remains associated with each, were the primary categories of lithic artifacts analyzed. Heat treatment experiments were carried out in order to provide a type collection for identification, and these results are also presented.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HARTMANN Rita¹

Pottery evidence from Tell el-Fara'in/Buto – Chronology and economy of an Early Dynastic estate.

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The work of the German Archaeological Institute Cairo at Tell el-Fara'in/Buto exposed a large area of Early Dynastic settlement remains, showing the gradual development and modification of a building complex comprising rectangular houses and a large structure with round silos during Naqada IIIC1, into an official estate with a complex architectural system of rooms, magazines and corridors at the beginning of Naqada IIID. Although inscriptional evidence is provided by seal impressions, the dating of the three main occupation phases is almost exclusively based on the associated ceramic inventories.

During the oldest occupation phase reached so far (Naqada IIIC1) the assemblage consists of fragments of bread moulds, vats and more than 60% wet-finished straw tempered Nile clay pottery representing the typical settlement material. However, the most characteristic feature is a remarkable variety of fine wares, including fragments of Nile clay wine jars, cylindrical jars and globular vessels made of fine Marl clay, thin-walled calcite tempered cups with applied decoration, and very few fragments of imported vessels. Considering the composition of this ceramic inventory it seems to be rather unusual for a simple village society, and may point to the presence of an elite group of people. The pottery material of the Naqada IIIC2 is more homogeneous and shows a distinct functional connection to the exposed building structures. The high level of social organisation is attested by a considerable extent of food production and specialization of the domestic pottery. The amount of bread moulds increased to more than 40% and for the first time flat based beer jars with scraped surface occur. Large vats found in situ in the corners of the courtyard may have served for further processing of agricultural products. Of special interest is the high proportion of coarse sand and calcite tempered cooking ware in specific areas, indicating a more generally organized daily food supply. At the end of the 1st Dynasty, when the complex was finally transformed into an official administrative building, the ceramic assemblage consists mainly of plates, cups and round based beer jars found on the floors of the small rooms

and workshops. Vessel types connected to the production of food are rare and such activities seem to have been shifted elsewhere.

This paper focuses on the establishment of a chronological sequence of the Early Dynastic domestic pottery at Buto. First results of the spatial analysis of different pottery types and wares may define functional areas of the site and allow conclusions to be drawn about the socio-economic situation of the settlement over the course of time.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HARTUNG Ulrich¹

Early Dynastic building structures at Tell el-Fara'in/Buto.

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During the last years, the investigations of Early Dynastic settlement remains at Tell el-Fara'in/Buto were continued in a considerably enlarged area, providing new insights into the development of architectural structures and the material culture.

Meanwhile, from the very beginning of the 1st, until the middle of the 2nd Dynasty, three main phases of construction can be distinguished. The oldest occupation dates reached as far as the very beginning of the 1st Dynasty (Naqada IIIC1), and consists of simple rectangular houses of roughly similar size adjoining a larger building. From the early 1st Dynasty on (during Naqada IIIC2), the architectural lay-out was transformed, and a large courtyard in front of a newly built larger building was established, surrounded by rooms of varying size and shape. Several ovens, fireplaces, round silos and other installations illustrate the agricultural and household activities of the inhabitants and point to the considerable extent of the agricultural production. During the second half of the 1st Dynasty (Naqada IIIC3/IIID), these structures were replaced by a large, well-planned building complex with representative rooms, workshops, magazines and other rooms, probably used for private and cultic purposes. A reception room in the centre of the building was accessible from the entrance of the complex by a long and angled corridor – a feature known from later pharaonic palaces and elite residences. The complex existed approximately until the middle of the 2nd Dynasty, when parts of the building were destroyed by a heavy fire. Although some of the rooms might have been used secondarily until the late 2nd Dynasty, afterwards the complex was completely abandoned and served as a rubbish place.

There is little doubt that the three occupation phases exposed so far mirror the development of an official, namely Royal estate with economic and administrative functions which was finally modified into a palace-like structure. With this architectural evidence and the connected remains of the material culture – especially the pottery and seal impressions – an increasing level of social organization and a strengthening of the representation of power become apparent during the course of the 1st Dynasty.

POSTER

HASSAN Fekri¹, TASSIE Geoffrey², VAN WETERING Joris³ & BANKS K. Morgan⁴

The Exogenous/Impressed Decorated Ceramics from the Naqada Region

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During the Washington State University *Predynastic of Nagada* Project (1978 to 1981) led by F. A. Hassan, several impressed potsherds were recovered from South Town/Nubt (see Hassan, van Wetering & Tassie this volume), Kh. 5 and Kh.3. At that time the only other sites that had these types of ceramics were those in the Western Desert, Nubia and the Central Sudan. An unpublished study by Banks and Hassan in the 1980s looked to the south to explain the temporal-spatial connections of these ceramics. A few had also been reported as coming from Hierakonpolis by Guy Brunton, but these were thought to be exogenous. During the reexamination and cataloguing of Prof. Hassan's study collection that was stored at University College London until 2010, several new examples were identified than had been used for the original study in the 1980s. The recent reexamination has provided us with new photographs, drawings, and fabric analyses of all these potsherds to compare them to other similar ones found in the Nile Valley.

In the last 30 years a lot more examples of these decorated ceramics have been discovered, and it has been mooted that these ceramics may have originated in the Nile Delta. It appears that these potsherds belong to Petrie's D93 type ovoid or globular vessel, which seems to have developed during the Naqada IIC phase. These vessels were covered on the outside with impressed decorative motifs. The fabric was usually Nile silt tempered with organic particles. These vessels have been found at Buto, Tell el-Farkha, Tell Ibrahim Awad and Tell el-Iswid South. These motifs consisted of zigzags applied by a rocker stamp, rows and semi-circles of impressed dots applied by the alternately pivoting method, and simple impressions applied with a stylus or nail covering most of the outside of the vessel. However, these decorated vessels have also been discovered in the Naqada IIC contexts at Adaïma, Hierakonpolis, and can now be reported for sites in the Naqada region. As such the origin of these vessels must at present remain obscure, but may indicate several centres of production in the Nile Valley and Delta.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HASSAN Fekri¹, VAN WETERING Joris² & TASSIE Geoffrey³

The Urban Development at Nubt, Naqada region, Upper Egypt during the Predynastic Period.

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Since the discovery of the site by Petrie in 1894, the cemeteries and the South Town settled area at Nubt have been at the foreground of state formation interpretations. Between 1978 and 1981, the Washington State University *Predynastic of Nagada* Project, led by F. A. Hassan carried out excavations at the site. The results of this mission are compared with the information provided by the excavations of Petrie (1894-95), De Morgan (1896), Kaiser's survey (1958) and the Italian team, led by Barocas (1977-1986).

Hassan investigated the settlement zone with a number of 25.0 by 1.0 m trenches in the northwest area and surface collection squares, either 1.0 by 1.0 m or 5.0 by 5.0 m, covering the northern part of the settlement zone (the southern part was underneath the modern village Nag' Arab Tukh and was not extensively investigated). No *in-situ* remains were discovered, except for a foundation wall consisting of large stones uncovered in Tp.78/N3-4.E16-17. Although Petrie's walls and features were identified and plotted onto the grid, none of the walls were still as Petrie had observed them, and only the cobble-stone pavement he found was still *in-situ*. *Sebakhin* and looting activities since Petrie's time have completely disturbed the settlement, leaving almost nothing *in-situ* except for postholes and wall foundation trenches. The investigation, however, recovered a large amount of diagnostic ceramic and lithic material as well as various non-ceramic finds, which indicate spatial-temporal differentiation and tentatively functional areas within the settlement zone. The finds included both administrative (counters) and votive objects (terracotta / clay palettes), which were also found by the Italian mission, as well as power objects (maceheads), many of which have recently been reanalysed.

The Italian mission, on the other hand, investigated the site with one large trench of about 35.0 m East-West by about 25.0 m North-South in the southwest area of the settlement zone (northern part), as well as a small trench in the northwest area, near Petrie's structural remains.

The large trench of the Italian mission provides a comprehensive overview of a limited area of the settlement whereas the many small trenches of the WSU mission provide a broader overview of the northern part of the settlement zone. Comparing the results of these two contemporary excavations with the old excavations and the survey results allows for a better insight into the urban development at Nubt, and thus for a better understanding of the site as a whole including the interrelation between the cemeteries of Nubt and its settlement.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HENDRICKX Stan¹, FRIEDMAN Renee² & REGULSKI Ilona³

Fish and the temple: Writing or reality?

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Predynastic cylinder seals and impressions are a relatively limited, but interesting group of documents. The earliest cylinder seals found in Egypt are associated with Naqada IIC/D material. We will discuss a particular group of seals and impressions which drew our attention because of their decorative scheme. Several of the earliest seals are decorated with representations of fish, generally in combination with buildings or other animals. These Predynastic seals do not seem to reflect private ownership but they refer to the origin or destination of goods. The fish are not equally recognisable on all of the seals because they are in several cases reduced to ovals.

Generally, we can distinguish two types of scenes on the “fish sealings”. The first type shows horizontal rows of fish in combination with different elements, which are sometimes unidentifiable. Other elements, which will be argued to be characteristic for the second group – such as buildings – are never apparent. Except for the presence of fish, this group has little coherence and may well reflect various meanings.

The second type of seals depicts three or four fish above one another in combination with a building. The clearest example is the seal Berlin 13812, where two *ntr*-flags identify the structure as a temple. The crosshatched pattern of the structure could represent the reed construction of early buildings but may at the same time also refer to their decoration with reed mats. All the seals of the second type can thus be dealt with in the same way, since the crosshatched patterns and other geometrical decorations can be interpreted as more stylised renderings of temple structures.

The fish, especially in combination with reed constructions, on the seals under discussion have been read as references to deliveries intended for the temple. The fish often appear in threefold, which some have interpreted as the hieroglyphic plural *in.w* “deliveries”, recalling the later writing of *in.w* with a fish. However, in our opinion, the sealings under discussion should not be read in

reference to the later Early Dynastic writing system but are to be considered in the context of late Predynastic iconography and archaeology.

The importance of fish remains, in a presumably ritual context at the ceremonial site HK29A at Hierakonpolis, allows us to interpret the seals with fish representations as a reflection of reality. We would like to suggest that the seals with fish refer to certain rituals and feasts held in and around ceremonial structures. The Predynastic sealings therefore functioned in a kind of Upper Egyptian administration related to socio-religious festivities, which seems to have existed before writing.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HILL Jane A.¹, & ROSADO Maria A.¹

Mummification practices in Predynastic Egypt. A view from the Penn Museum Collections.

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As part of a detailed study of the University of Pennsylvania Museum's Predynastic Egyptian collection, a flexed bundle burial (E 16229), one of two Predynastic human burials donated to the Museum in 1898, is currently being analyzed and conserved. Originally dated by J.E. Quibell to the early Predynastic period, these human remains exhibit many interesting features of the Egyptians' early experimentation with different mummification techniques. Some of these techniques include the use of multiple types of cloth wrapping and packing, basketry and different species of animal skins – used both as internal wrapping and as an external envelope sewn together to contain the mummy. Evidence of postmortem alteration, preservation and even reconstruction demonstrate an interest not only in preserving the body, but also packaging it in a manner that would make its transportation possible. Employing results from paleopathological methods, radiocarbon dating, and microscopic analysis of artifacts and ecofacts associated with the body, we propose environmental and social reasons for early Egyptian mummification. Practices encoded in the mummy reveal much about early Upper Egyptian society and urbanization in the Nile Valley. Additional analysis of the cultural artifacts included in the burial and the treatment of the body as the subject and object of ritual and memory are also discussed.

POSTER

HOLLIS Susan Tower¹

Early Dynastic *ḥt-ḥr*

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The hieroglyph O10, *ḥt-ḥr*, appears on seals dating from the Early Dynastic Period and 3rd Dynasty, but the exact meaning of the early sign remains unclear. In later periods, this hieroglyph signifies the goddess Hathor, commonly accompanying an anthropomorphic female figure coiffed with lyriiform horns which usually surrounds a disk, but no such figure accompanies the hieroglyph prior to the time of Menkaure in the later 4th Dynasty. Considering the sign's early appearance, among other ideas, Wolfgang Helck has suggested that it refers to the location where the early leaders in a rural society or group became manifested with their power, while Rudolf Anthes has suggested it was the *ḥt-sr*, the "house of the *sr*-officials" or the meeting place of the Corporation in Heliopolis where the king was acclaimed. Anthes further noted that this location "was early deified as Hathor." Yet the vast majority of known early seals refer to a title, *hm-ntr ḥt-ḥr*, priest(ess) of *ḥt-ḥr*, suggesting service to an institution or location, if one accepts that the goddess herself lacks any certain evidence prior to 4th Dynasty.

This paper will explore questions related to the existence of the Corporation, its function, its relation to the king and the gods, along with exploring the possibility that Hathor evolved from the function and role of the Corporation. It will draw particularly on recent archeological work in both Lower and Upper Egypt as reported in earlier Origins conferences and other publications.

POSTER

HOOD Amber¹, DEE Michael¹, DITCHFIELD Peter¹, SCHWENNINGER Jean-Luc¹, BRONK RAMSEY Christopher¹

A Tale of Six Vessels: A multidisciplinary approach to the analysis of six Predynastic and Early Dynastic vessels from Abydos, Ballas and Naqada.

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Six Pre- and Early Dynastic vessels from Abydos, Naqada and Ballas, housed in the Ashmolean Museum, have recently been subjected to comprehensive scientific analysis. This is the first time that a wide range of analytical techniques has been applied to the same set of Pre- and Early Dynastic vessels. Here we present the findings of this study, which have made a significant contribution to our understanding of the vessels, including their depositional history, absolute dates pertaining to their use and production, as well as their function based upon their contents.

Three analytical techniques have been incorporated into this study to discern this information. First, optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dating has been used to date the manufacture of the vessels, as well as the last date of use. This has been done by obtaining OSL measurements directly from the ceramic fabric and also from the contents of the vessels, both of which provided quartz suitable for conducting such measurements. Secondly, the contents of the vessels have been dated by radiocarbon dating, which provides not only an independent means of establishing an absolute date for these vessels, but also acts as a way of checking the OSL dates and correlating the two dating techniques. Finally, the contents of the vessels have been analysed by gas chromatography mass spectrometry (GC-MS), which has allowed for the identification of the original contents of the vessels and for conclusions to be drawn about their use.

POSTER

HOOD Amber¹, SCHWENNINGER Jean-Luc¹

Illuminating Early Dynastic Egypt: absolute dating of Early Dynastic ceramics using optically stimulated luminescence dating.

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This paper presents the results of a study that has produced the first optically stimulated luminescence (OSL) dates from Early Dynastic Egyptian ceramics. OSL dating (not to be confused with thermoluminescence dating), has never before been used on ceramics in Egyptian Archaeology, although it has the potential to revolutionise ceramic chronology, as it can produce high precision absolute dates for ceramics directly.

This project is centred primarily upon the Bet Khallaf ceramic assemblage, excavated by Garstang in the early 1900s. This assemblage is particularly interesting as it examines the transition of the ceramic material from the late Naqada III period into the Old Kingdom. Samples for OSL dating were collected from artefacts housed in collections of the Penn Museum, the Garstang Museum and the Ashmolean, using a novel sampling methodology which was developed specifically for OSL sampling of museum objects.

This paper will focus primarily on the OSL results of the Bet Khallaf material: presenting the OSL dates for Early Dynastic ceramics, as well as discussing the implications of the results in relation to the established relative typology for this transitional period of Egyptian history. It will also focus on providing a brief, yet comprehensive, overview of the application of OSL to Early Dynastic Egyptian archaeology and how other researchers in the discipline may employ OSL dating to their own research.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HORN Maarten

The Tasian-Badarian Divide in the Qau-Matmar Region: A Re-Evaluation on the Basis of Burial Dress.

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In his 1937 publication entitled “Mostagedda and the Tasian Culture”, Guy Brunton first introduced the notion of a “Tasian culture”, a concept that he had constructed on the basis of his archaeological findings in the Mostagedda and, in retrospect, Badari districts, both situated within the wider Qau-Matmar region in Middle Egypt. A total of 42 burials and 8 habitation areas were assigned to this new cultural era within Egyptian prehistory, which Brunton, by reason of their close “cultural” resemblances, had interpreted as an early phase of the Badarian period. Nevertheless, the cultural and chronological segregation of these Tasian remains was, in line with the then prevailing cultural-historical perspective, largely founded on a supposed dissimilarity of their artefactual content to that of the Badarian and Naqadian assemblages. In the years following Brunton’s publication, his hypothesis of a separate Tasian culture has met with criticism by scholars who have stressed that such a construction fails to find support in their interpretation of the archaeological record.

The aim of the present paper is to re-evaluate the Tasian-Badarian divide on the basis of a contextual analysis of body ornaments or “dress items” (such as beads, seashells, and bangles) found in Tasian and Badarian burials in the Qau-Matmar region. The results of this analysis indicate that both grave groups cannot be differentiated on account of these objects, nor on the basis of their specific usage within the mortuary sphere. More importantly, they reveal that in both burial groups the deceased were dressed with analogous items in order to construct (a) specific identity or identities of the dead during burial practices. In combination with the preliminary outcomes of recent material and technological studies of these dress items, this further highlights the need for a re-assessment of the Tasian-Badarian divide.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

HUSSEIN Yasser Mahmoud¹

New extension of the early dynastic cemetery at south Abydos.

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A recent survey around the early dynastic cemetery at south Abydos has revealed a new extension to the north-east of the cemetery, which covers about 250 x 124 m. From the walking survey we found many predynastic and early dynastic materials, like lithic tools, which represent a vast amount of the finds collected from the survey. These kinds of tools, namely sickle blades and microliths, require a separate study to explore the chipped stone industry in this area, because this kind of industry at Abydos in general has been widely omitted from the discussion of the chronological and cultural discussion. Pottery fragments were found, especially of bowls varying in shape, thickness, regularity and surface treatment (polished or un-polished). Most of the of the samples collected were of a hard light-red or grayish fabric, whilst other samples were light or dark red, could be polished, and may or may not have a wash or slip. Some of them are cylindrical jar fragments, which date to Naqada IIIA2/IIIB. The inspectorate did some test operations in this area, and the results confirm that this area dated back to Naqada II-III, and probably earlier. This is according to the pottery and potmarks which were found in the test operation.

Our plan in the coming season is to investigate this area by systematically digging some squares to have better idea about this extension. Thus, the early dynastic cemetery seems to have developed from North-West to South-East, and the new extension probably belongs to the early phase of this cemetery. Now we are missing the settlement which is associated with this cemetery and its new extension. Maybe, as Habachi suggested when he recovered the 1st Dynasty graves to the ESE of the Seti I temple, these graves belong to Peet's settlement located west of the Seti I temple, immediately outside of its brick temenos wall, due to its location just 200 m to the north of early dynastic cemetery's new extension.

POSTER

IBRAHIM Heba-Tallah A.A.¹

A View of Nabta Playa Megalithic Structures and their possible implications.

¹ General Administration of Prehistory, Ministry of State for Antiquities, Cairo, Egypt

Presenting author: Heba-Tallah A.A. Ibrahim (heba22_eg@yahoo.com)

Before the first known Neolithic settlements along the Nile Valley, Neolithic occupants settled in several localities in the Western Desert, when the climate allowed them to have seasonal camps on lakes shores. The lakes were created from the rainfall that the Western Desert was receiving in that period, estimated at between 50 and 200 mm/year on the basis of fauna and flora identifications. Nabta Playa was one of the biggest Neolithic localities, about 170 km southwest of present-day Abu Simbel city and 30 km north of the Egyptian-Sudanese border.

The Neolithic occupants had their own life, which differed from those who lived along the Nile Valley later. They had their own types in ceramic production, a distinctive lithic tool kit, and built the Nabta Playa megalithic ceremonial center, one of the oldest in the world, and unique in Africa. The megalithic structures of Nabta Playa consist of four large groups of man-made megalithic stone stelae; these vary in size and are clustered at the western and southern parts of the Nabta Basin. They are considered one of the oldest sites, being erected by the Final Neolithic occupants around 5500 – 4800/4150 B.P. The idea of megaliths started at that large basin in the Western Desert and appears to extend to other areas in the Nile valley and some sites of the Eastern Desert during the Neolithic, and into the following periods of Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

JEUTHE Clara

The Sheikh Muftah occupation at Balat North (Dakhla Oasis/ Western Desert) during the Old Kingdom.

Institut français d'archéologie orientale, Cairo, Egypt

Presenting author: Clara Jeuthe (cjeuthe@ifao.egnet.net)

Balat, located at the eastern edge of Dakhla Oasis/Western Desert and being investigated by *Institut français d'archéologie orientale* (IFAO) since 1978, is mainly known for its pharaonic structures of the Late Old Kingdom until the Second Intermediate Period. Yet, in approximately 80-90 m distance north of the structures of the 6th Dynasty, an occupation area with material of the so-called Sheikh Muftah group was recently discovered. This group is believed to be the indigenous population in Dakhla Oasis and its surroundings during the 4th/3rd millennium B.C., based on pastoral nomadism. Still, only the site El-Kharafish, located on the Egyptian Limestone Plateau north of the Oasis, is well published and we aim to enlarge the knowledge of the Sheikh Muftah occupation and its character in the Oasis itself through our research.

This paper presents the preliminary results of the first excavation in 2013; a second season is scheduled for winter 2014. The excavation in 2013 provided an insight into the stratigraphical development of the site, which consists of four phases. Yet, at least the youngest phase is contemporary with the Old Kingdom, and a more precise dating of all phases by ceramics and ¹⁴C-Data will be established after the 2014 season.

Besides investigations of the vertical stratigraphy, the horizontal development including the relation between different concentrations of occupation also formed were also part of our work in 2013, providing us with an initial understanding of the camp's character. In addition, the material culture (e.g. mainly ceramics, lithics and groundstone implements) not only proves contact between the Sheikh Muftah group and the Pharaonic Egyptian culture, but furthermore, especially in regard to the lithic industries, the material shows different stages of cross-cultural influence when compared with artefacts found in Ayn Asil, hinting at local "Dakhla-style" from the late Old Kingdom onwards. Hence, after the presentation of the site "Balat North" and the preliminary results, the paper will focus on the different lithic traditions in Balat during the Old Kingdom.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

JUCHA Mariusz A.¹, PRYC Grzegorz¹

The settlement and cemetery – a new research on the 4th / 3rd millennium Nile Delta site at Tell el-Murra.

¹ Institute of Archaeology, Jagiellonian University, Cracow

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The site of Tell el-Murra, is situated in the North-Eastern part of the Nile Delta, c. 100 km to the north-east of Cairo. It has been investigated archaeologically by the Polish expedition since 2008 when the survey was made there. During the excavation, which started in 2010 the remains of the settlement were explored. Moreover the cemetery, adjacent to the settlement, was also discovered. The settlement layers contained Predynastic (Lower Egyptian Culture), Naqada III and Old Kingdom material. Remains of settlement structures were exposed both in surveys explored in 2010 and 2011 as well as in a large trench opened in 2013 in the north-eastern part of the site. These comprise, among others, rectangular constructions as well as rounded ones. Furthermore fourteen graves were explored in the south-western part of the tell during three subsequent archeological seasons between 2011 and 2013. Most of them were dated to the Early Dynastic period on the basis of pottery and stone vessels. Remains of mats as well as fragments of other structures, among them those rectangular in shape (probably other graves), were also located in the trench. However, in most cases these continue under the still unexplored area surrounding the trench.

The archaeological data obtained during the Polish project provided new information concerning the site history. Furthermore these could be used as comparative material to data coming from the older as well as presently conducted excavation in the Nile Delta. Most of the objects show affinity to these from other settlements and cemeteries. This makes possible to correlate the structures from Tell el-Murra with chronological phases distinguished among others at: Tell el-Farkha, Minshat Abu Omar and Buto. The similarities were observed through the occurrence of certain forms of the pottery, stone vessels, flint implements, flint knives with a handle, personal adornments as well as other elements characteristic of the described period. However, besides the obvious similarities the presence of differences should also be noted. These include the different orientation of graves dated to the same period, some

differences in graves assemblages, occurrence of certain types of pottery as well as stone vessels, and the absence of others. The question concerns, if we deal here with chronological differences, differences in social status or regional variations still visible between the different regions even after the unification of Egypt. Further differences refer to the occurrence of pottery coffins at Tell el-Murra which were found in five cases out of all fourteen graves explored until the 2013 archaeological season. Among these coffins both examples with or without a cover were attested. Coffins with hollows in the bottom were also found.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

KINDERMANN Karin¹

Considerations about significant stone artefacts – scrapers in Predynastic and Dynastic Egypt.

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During the analysis of the lithic material from the 2003 to 2006 excavations in Buto (Tell el-Fara'in), triangular scrapers (so-called "Dreiecksschaber") occurred for the first time in a context of an Early Dynastic bifacial knife production sequence. This circumstance seems to indicate a direct connection between this kind of scraper and the elaborated Early Dynastic bifacial knives. Subsequently, this provokes a re-examination of the tool type "scraper" in more detail.

Side scrapers are a manifold tool category in Predynastic and Dynastic Egypt with many different types, as for example triangular scraper (Dreiecksschaber), tabular scraper, circular scraper, side-blow flakes or fan scraper. Unfortunately, exact type definitions are often mistakable, and therefore different types – especially tabular scraper, circular scraper and fan scraper – are used sometimes interchangeably. Likewise clear differentiations between the tool categories of scrapers and knives are hard to find. Hence, comparisons between different artefact inventories with scrapers are difficult.

Of particular interest are the "Plattensilexabschlaggeräte", another characteristic scraper type, which occurred for example in the excavation material from Maadi and Buto. Its typological origin is presumed in the Palestinian Neolithic, and therefore finds of these scrapers in Egypt are interpreted as imports from the Middle East. "Plattensilexabschlaggeräte" are described as typical for the Palestinian region during the 6th millennium BC but they also occur at the same time in the Western Desert of Egypt (e.g. Djara, Abu Gerara). The simultaneous appearance in both regions cannot be interpreted as an import and other explanations must be found. Maybe this tool type reflects a special functional element of highly mobile groups, living in comparable environments.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

KNOBLAUCH Christian¹

Royal Cult at the Birth of the Egyptian State. The Pottery from the Royal Enclosures “Aha II” and “III” at Abydos.

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The royal enclosures (German *Talbezirke*) built on the low desert at Abydos are essential aspects for defining Egyptian Kingship during the formation process of the Egyptian territorial state. Spanning the First and Second Dynasties, they are artefactual records of an ideology that stressed the centrality of the royal person and the ritually charged desert landscape at Abydos for the structure of the emergent state. But while it is generally accepted that the enclosures complement the actual royal tombs 2.5km further into the desert at *Umm el-Qaab* in some way, it is acknowledged that the precise function of these complexes within the wider context of the royal burial remains problematic. On the one hand this is reflective of the ambiguity and undeniably enigmatic nature of the evidence. On the other, it is also indicative of a dearth of hard archaeological data against which theories can be accepted, refined, or rejected: until relatively recently, the chief primary sources of information for the enclosures have remained the publications of PEET (1914) and PETRIE (1925), both of which are now close to a century old and of varying degrees of usefulness for modern scientific purposes.

The proposed paper will discuss the final results of the analysis of ceramic vessels from two of the “Aha” enclosures excavated by Laurel Bestock for the Pennsylvania Museum-Yale University-Institute of Fine Arts, New York University Expedition to Abydos. The pottery uncovered in relationship to these buildings has an important role to play in the final evaluation of their nature. It not only provides evidence of how the enclosures in question should be dated, but as the numerically dominant artefact, pottery is uniquely placed to provide basic information as to how the superstructural components of the enclosures were actually used, especially with respect to the types of activities that were carried out, and the intensity, longevity and spatial structuring of those activities. The evidence from the two enclosures will also be compared with the evidence from other enclosures from Abydos in order to investigate diachronic shifts in the performance of royal ritual during the first two Dynasties.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

KÖHLER E. Christiana¹, MÜLLER Vera² & OWNBY Mary³

North or South ? A Re-examination of EB I–III Levantine Ceramic Imports in Early Egypt (A Progress Report).

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Presenting author: E. Christiana Köhler (e.christiana.koehler@univie.ac.at)

Knowledge on interrelations between Egypt and the Levant during the Early Bronze Age has been well established ever since Flinders Petrie discovered a large quantity of foreign ceramic fragments in the 1st Dynasty royal cemetery at Abydos in early the 20th century, which he initially interpreted as of Aegean origin, but which were later found to be Levantine. This material entered the scholarly discourse under the term *Abydos Ware* (encompassing ceramics also termed *Light-Faced Painted Ware*, *Combed*, *Red Polished* and *Metallic Ware*). More vessels of the same or comparable wares were subsequently found also in non-royal contexts and contexts of different dates at other sites in Egypt. For many decades *Abydos Ware* served as the chronological peg for defining the cultures of the Early Bronze Age (= EB) II and correlating the south Levantine material with contemporaneous Egyptian material, and thus with the Egyptian historical chronology. These vessels thus allow for insights into the complexities of interregional trade and exchange.

The possible origins of these imports have been frequently disputed and various areas in the northern and southern Levant have been brought into discussion. Although the south has so far dominated the discourse, none of the proposed origins could be demonstrated as conclusive, especially in the case of the 1st Dynasty *Abydos Ware*. This was largely due to the fact that many studies operated with visual or morphological comparisons of vessels only, and even where scientific testing methods were involved, the small sample size and limited access to well-stratified comparative EB I–III material, especially in the northern Levant prevented accurate assessment. This situation has now changed. A number of new excavation projects in Lebanon and Syria have recently reached EB I–III layers and have already started to produce very close parallels to the vessels found in Egypt. The amount of vessels imported to Egypt and excavated

in recent years at Abydos surpasses the quantity of vessels hitherto known. Additionally imported vessels discovered recently in non-elite graves at Helwan yielded further important insights for this question. This project aims to collect all available data and conduct new scientific (petrographic) analyses on material from Egypt and the Levant on a much broader scale than ever done before in order to arrive at a more definite, scientifically supported result on the question of the origins and chronological scope of these imported wares in Egypt, as well as their socio-economic implications.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

KOHSE Antje¹

Irregular burials: An overview from the Predynastic Period to the Early Old Kingdom.

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Irregular burials of juvenile and adult individuals can be found in cemeteries all over Egypt, not only in the period under discussion here, but also in later phases of Egyptian history. Such irregular burials are interments that deviate distinctly from the standard burials of their time without showing a disturbance or alteration due to taphonomic processes. Four categories of irregular burials can be classified: 1) manipulations of the body, 2) modifications in the position of the deceased, 3) modifications of the tomb and 4) further anomalies, of which the various kinds of manipulations of the body were by far the most frequent irregularities.

This paper will give an overview of non-normative burials from the Predynastic Period to the Early Old Kingdom and will offer possible interpretations for this phenomenon based on ethnological parallels and later textual sources.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

KUHN Robert¹

The Slate Palettes from the Tomb of De(we)n in Umm el-Qa'ab (Abydos).

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Besides pottery and stone vessels slate palettes are well known “Leitformen” of the formative phase in Ancient Egypt from the 6th millennium BC onwards. We usually distinguish two categories of slate palettes: one with more common, yet various forms (e. g. zoomorphic, round, etc.) and the so-called “ceremonial-palettes”, primarily linked with Naqada III contexts. Both forms are mostly known from tombs or at least are likely to have a tomb context.

While re-examining the tomb of De(we)n by the DAI Cairo, at least 25 fragments of siltstone palettes were found, which obviously belong to the inventory of the King’s tomb-complex. But it is interesting to note, that none of these fragments can be directly linked to the king’s chamber, but more certainly to the so-called subsidiary burials.

The forms represent quite a large variety: such as pisciform and quadrupedal animals, as well as certain rectangular shapes. The latter is of course highly interesting concerning not only its usage, but also the chronology. Most zoomorphic forms can be connected with Naqada I and II contexts, rather than with the royal cemetery itself. Only the rectangular forms are remarkable late Naqada III-types. The material used is mostly siltstone (red and green variants). So far as is known, none of the ceremonial palettes can be contextualized with the necropolis, even though it is very probable, that some of the known objects bought on the antiquity’s market may derive from Abydos. In Saqqara ceremonial palettes appear until the reign of King Djer.

How can these finds be explained? It is remarkable, that none of the palette-fragments were found *in situ* in the tomb of the king, but in those of his “followers”. The next aspect to be investigated is the chronological frame. One possibility might be, that some of the zoomorphic palettes are originate from the nearby situated Cemetery U, and are secondarily deposited in the tomb of De(we)n. But it is also possible that they are re-used objects in the time of De(we)n, which is a well-known feature during the formative phase.

Except for the items in the royal necropolis of Abydos, the use of this object category obviously diminishes with the end of Naqada III, as it has been known for a long time. But how did this decline proceed? One more focus in the Oral communication/Poster will be the further development and use of the slate palettes until the presumed end in phase Naqada III.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

LANKESTER Francis

'Control of the wild' in Egypt's predynastic rock-art.

Presenting author: Francis Lankester (lankester2@aol.com)

In the Predynastic era related portrayals of wild animals on pottery, knife handles, and palettes are found in rock-art. This paper explores the desert petroglyphs in their Nile Valley context, to identify their creators and to examine the motivation for their creation. I outline the petroglyphs' distribution and then suggest how the rock-art images can be identified, showing that scenes of hunting, in association with boats, are the major theme of this material. Consumption of meat gained by hunting was a very minor feature of predynastic Egypt after the Badarian period. So we must account for the prevalence of hunting in the rock-art, for the consumption of game, and the burial of wild animals in elite cemeteries in the Nile Valley. In particular, I examine a potential connection with Hierakonpolis and Mahasna in this regard, and the utilisation of journeys into the desert, and resources gained there by a number of elites in legitimising and strengthening their status by 'control of the wild.'

The Naqada IC-IIA/B petroglyphs probably represent members of elite lineages for whom journeys out into a realm different from the agricultural valley, which presented the challenge of negotiating an unfamiliar desert environment, built and legitimated their status and position of power. They brought back game animals that were easy to catch - for example gazelle, and materials such as ostrich eggs and feathers which could be gathered without much difficulty. Since hunting was an occasional activity, and not a means of acquiring meat on which the hunters depended for day to day sustenance, they were not often successful. But this was not an obstacle to the reinforcement of their status since they could bring back sufficient prestige products from the 'other realm.'

The combination of boats in and associated with hunting scenes found over a wide area in the Central Eastern Desert suggests a shared view and purpose among the valley elites in relation to journeys in the desert and their activities there. The many examples of the hunting and control of animals represent the petroglyph creators' perceived ability to control the wild. Their successful negotiation of the wild realm was an additional proof of this power. The association and integration of boats into the hunting scenes indicates participation in a different realm. These scenes, and the presence of 'dancing'

figures engaged in controlling wild animals, show unrealistic situations compared to everyday life. They support the conclusion that by the Naqada IC-IIA/B period the desert was seen as 'out there' in opposition to the more familiar valley, and that it probably also represented a different temporal realm from the daily routine of agricultural society in the Nile Valley.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

MACZYŃSKA Agnieszka¹

The development of the earliest Predynastic cultures of the Lower Egypt – continuity or isolation?

¹ Poznan Archaeological Museum, Poznań, Poland

Presenting author: Agnieszka Mączyńska (agamacz@man.poznan.pl)

The first farming communities appeared in northern Egypt in the middle of the 5th millennium BC. Some 1000 years later agriculture and animal breeding spread all over the Nile Delta. However, in spite of continued research and new discoveries, the adaptation process of this new subsistence system has not been fully explained so far. Previous studies have not yielded definitive conclusions as to the direction from which this economic system reached the Nile Delta. Nor have they provided the final answer to the question of why the Delta communities adopted it so late. Another unresolved issue is the process of adaptation and dissemination of farming and animal breeding in the Nile Valley.

The hypothesis most commonly accepted by archaeologists places the origins of Egyptian agriculture and animal breeding in the Southern Levant. According to this view the new subsistence system could have reached Lower Egypt via Sinai, together with materials and goods imported from the east. Alternatively, it might have been brought by Levantine farmers migrating due to climate changes in their region.

Egypt's first farmers were the communities inhabiting the shores of Qarun Lake at the Faiyum Oasis and the dwellers of Merimde Beni-Salame settlement in the Nile Delta. In the beginning, agriculture and animal breeding were practiced in addition to hunting and gathering, and they served as a kind of backup solution making the communities less dependent on nature. Some time after the adaptation of farming in the north, in the period in which Merimde settlement was already functioning, a new farming community, known as the el-Omari culture, appeared at Wadi Hof.

In view of the present state of research on early Predynastic cultures in Lower Egypt, the groups inhabiting in the Faiyum Oasis and Merimde Beni-Salame, although contemporary, seem to have been independent from each other. The same pertains to the communities described as the el-Omari culture. However, despite the absence of evidence for the links between the earliest farming communities in the region, we are not able to either rule out or confirm

the existence of those links. The cultural map of Lower Egypt for the period in question is full of blank spots. It is difficult to judge whether this is attributable to the current state of research, or to the past cultural situation. It is hoped that some new light will be shed on this issue due to the ongoing excavations at Sais, where the materials of the Merimde and the Lower Egyptian cultures have been recorded in adjacent layers.

At present the only way to analyse the above stated research problem is the study of published archaeological assemblages of the earliest Predynastic cultures of Lower Egypt, in order to define or rule out the existence of relations between them. The main aim of the presentation is to answer the question whether already in this period we can speak about a common cultural tradition in the north, connecting the Faiyumian, Merimde and El-Omari cultures. Another focus of the presentation is an attempt to determine the relations of those cultural units with the Lower Egyptian culture, which in the first half of the 4th millennium BC occupied probably the territory of Lower Egypt.

POSTER

MARCHAND Sylvie¹

La céramique Nagada III de Ayn Fogeya (Sinaï).

¹ Institut français d'archéologie orientale, Le Caire, Égypte

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Les fouilles du site de Ayn Fogeya (Sinaï) se sont déroulées en 2000-2002 sous la direction de François Paris (Ird/Ifao). Encore inédites, elles méritent à plus d'un titre de faire l'objet d'une présentation. Il s'agit d'un habitat de pierres sèches composé de 3 quartiers, constitué en cellules. La période d'occupation estimée est comprise entre 3300-2300 av. J.-C. L'étude du mobilier céramique pour l'ensemble des fouilles a porté sur 818 tessons et a confirmé la chronologie établie par les fouilleurs. Le faciès céramique de cet établissement a également montré des échanges avec la vallée du Nil avec cependant une composante cananéenne marquée. Les vases directement importés de la vallée du Nil sont en pâte alluviale souvent recouverts d'un engobe rouge brillant, et plus rarement en pâte calcaire. Les productions égyptiennes sont de facture soignée. Elles s'inscrivent, pour celles dont les formes étaient suffisamment explicites, dans les corpus céramiques du Delta du Nil. On recense principalement des jarres de petite taille, et quelques fragments de bassins type « bassins à aiguères ». Au moins un fragment de panse appartenant à une jarre à vin en pâte alluviale a été clairement identifié.

Le mobilier céramique du site est dominé par les productions cananéennes. On les distingue nettement des productions égyptiennes par ses formes, ses décors, ses techniques de façonnage, et ses fabriques. Le répertoire des formes est peu varié et spécifique. Les principales familles représentées comprennent des jarres à col ouvert à lèvre à section triangulaire, de larges pots sans col à bord rentrant à fond plat, des fragments de jarres à décor d'incisions courtes à la base du col. Une classe de récipient semble apparentée aux barattes. Elles portent un décor rayonnant d'incisions débordantes disposées à la base du col. On identifie également des fragments isolés d'anses de jarres de type « wavy-lines ».

POSTER

MARTÍN DEL RÍO ÁLVAREZ Candelaria¹

The geometric decoration in the rods of hairpins from Upper Egypt: a proposal of organization and chronology.

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After the study of the excavation memoirs of twenty Predynastic and Early Dynastic Upper Egyptian sites, and parallel research in Museums, it has been possible to gather data and related information from a large number of hairpins and combs, approximately four hundred in total. This allows a systematic catalogue and proposal for a typological division to be established for these artefacts.

Both objects present the main decoration in the upper part, i.e., shoulders in the case of combs and head in the case of hairpins. Nevertheless, some exemplars of hairpins have an additional decoration on the rod.

Hairpins can be grouped in two main types: circular section or flat section. Each of them has characteristics and particularities of their own, which undoubtedly conditioned its decorative elements. The majority of hairpins of flat section show a stepped decoration on the rod with a rather repetitive design. As for those of circular section, the percentage of decorated rods is low. Geometrical motifs have a higher prominence, both for the extension of the surface covered, which sometimes can reach more than one third of the pin, and for the variation of designs made through the combination of incised lines.

In this poster a proposal for the typological organization of the geometric decoration appearing on the rods of hairpins and its chronology is presented. Likewise, the deep connection between the decoration of the rod and other ornamental elements will be shown. This is evident in the case of hairpins with head shaped like birds that present a striping of crossed lines or complicated designs of diagonal lines.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

MIDANT-REYNES Béatrix¹, BUCHEZ Nathalie, BRÉAND Gaëlle, BRIOIS François, CAVERO Julien, EMERY-BARBIER Aline, EL-HAJAOUI Rachid, GUÉRIN Samuel, GUYOT Frédéric, HOCHSTRASSER-PETIT CHRISTIANE, LESUR Joséphine, MINOTTI Mathilde

The evolution of dwellings in the Nile Delta during the 4th millennium. A view from Tell el-Iswid

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Presenting authors: Nathalie Buchez (nathalie.buchez@inrap.fr) and Béatrix Midant-Reynes (bmidantreynes@ifao.egnet.net)

Excavations have been carried on at Tell el-Iswid-South (Eastern Nile Delta) by the French Institute of Archaeology under the direction of Béatrix Midant-Reynes and Nathalie Buchez.

The site was discovered in 1987 by The Amsterdam University Survey Expedition, which made two limited soundings, revealing an important stratigraphic sequence: the earlier levels show affinities with the Lower Egyptian Culture (Iswid A); the upper levels belong to the Naqada III-Early Dynastic Period (Iswid B). Indeed, the work of the Amsterdam University revealed Tell Iswid as a « key site » for the understanding of the human occupation during the 4th millennium in the Nile Delta. After a break of about twenty years, the work of the French team began in 2006. The initial goal was to obtain a chronological sequence, which checks and specifies those done by the Amsterdam University. This aim was achieved in 2009 and is now in press.

A magnetic survey made by Tomasz Herbich in 2009 revealed a large rectangular structure located in the southwestern part of the *gezira*. Excavations shed light on a mud-brick building dating from Naqada IIIA-B, whose data, added to those obtained from the stratigraphic sequence, gave the opportunity of studying more precisely the mud-brick architecture in terms of chronology, construction practices, and evolution of spatial domestic planning. Test trenches within the mud-brick building area showed that the lower levels belong to the Lower Egyptian Cultural Entity. Excavation of these levels began in 2013. This paper will focus on the types and the chronology of the domestic features of these lower levels, the transition to new kinds of dwelling, and the emergence of brick architecture in Egypt.

POSTER

MIMMO Maria Grazia

A Protodynastic Jar of the Gregorian Egyptian Museum.

Presenting author: Maria Grazia Mimmo (mimmomg@tiscali.it)

Among the Egyptian antiquities preserved in the Gregorian Egyptian Museum stands a jar of considerable size. This jar has an elongated body with a narrow base and was handmade. The vessel belongs to the category of the so-called “wine-jars” that were found in abundance at the site of Abydos and Saqqara. The production of this type of jar begins in the Protodynastic Period. Their most interesting features are some engraved signs on the body, often occurring in several combinations of signs. The Vatican Jar has very rare and interesting signs. In my paper I will try to explain their origin and their meaning through the comparison with other marks engraved on similar vessels.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

MÜLLER Vera¹

Seal impressions from Den's tomb at Abydos: New evidence and new interpretations.

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Presenting author: Vera Müller (vera.mueller@oeaw.ac.at)

Already in the old excavations of Den's tomb at Abydos and tombs contemporary to his reign at Saqqara revealed the largest amount of seal impressions from the 1st Dynasty. In the excavations of the German Archaeological Institute Cairo, started in 1985 and finished in 2002 at the royal tomb of Den under the direction of G. Dreyer, this abundance could be considerably enlarged for the already known sealing designs as well as for new sealings.

Recent investigations on seal impressions of this early period are still mainly based on Kaplony's seminal study from the early 1960s. Although Kaplony visited a number of museum collections, he was not able to reconstruct the exact number of excavated sealings, nor relationship between sealing designs and sealings, especially concerning the royal tombs at Abydos. The situation was much better in respect to the elite tombs at Saqqara, as in contrast to Petrie the excavators noted the number of sealings with the same designs. Kaplony could, however, only roughly attribute different types of stoppers to specific vessels and thus missed an important source of information, namely the attribution of probable vessel contents to particular sealing designs administrative institutions.

Although not yet exhausted, this paper tries to give some new interpretations on known sealing designs and show some new sealings discovered during the new excavations.

POSTER

NAGAYA Kazuyoshi¹

Experimental Studies on Perforation Technology with Micro-drills during the Predynastic Period.

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Perforation technology is one of the most common methods used in craft production during the Predynastic and Early Dynastic periods. There is no doubt that the holes made in beads and palettes, the handles of stone vessels and in fittings for wooden furniture were made by perforation. The flint tools used in this technology are mainly represented by micro-drills, which are small drills mainly made from bladelets. They appear to be well-developed by the mid Naqada II period. Hundreds of the micro-drills were found around the ceremonial courtyard of HK29A at Hierakonpolis, and in caches in the Early Dynastic town mound of Nekhen.

While both the final products (i.e., the perforated objects) and the tools for making the perforations are well-known in Predynastic contexts, the actual function of micro-drills has not been adequately discussed so far. In this paper, the experiment aims to evaluate materials, such as stones or wood, on which micro-drills might work, and how they would morphologically be changed (exhausted) through rotational motion. The result of the experiment will be presented, and the perforation method of micro-drills will be discussed.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

NELSON Kit¹, KHALIFA Eman² & HILL Rebecca³

Caching Behavior and its importance to understanding changing stone tool production and human mobility during the Late/Final Neolithic in the Egyptian Western Desert.

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Presenting author: Eman Khalifa (ekhalifa@tulane.edu)

The appearance of caching behavior during the Late/Final Neolithic (6000 to 4300 bp) in the Egyptian Western Desert is part of a larger transition in resource acquisition strategies, stone tool production, and mobility patterns. Two caches of Eocene chert blanks are examined from Nabta Playa and placed into the larger context of caches from this time period. Details concerning the location and use of raw material sources and the shaping of raw material blanks are then compared with the stone tool assemblages at adjacent sites of the same period. Raw material procurement, stone tool production strategies and caching behavior are used to develop a framework to discuss what problems the caching of blanks solve, and how that fits within the larger context of the shifting structure of mobility and subsistence during the Late/Final Neolithic in the desert zone.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

ORMELING Rinus¹

Planning the construction of the 1st Dynasty mastabas at Saqqara.

¹Independent researcher, The Netherlands

Presenting author: Rinus Ormeling (rinusorm@cs.com)

In recent years several studies have been aimed at the process of building in Early Dynastic Egypt. These studies have provided insight in construction skills, in the actual chain of production of mud brick structures and the organization of the labour involved. By modelling the process of building, we can now generate precise information on labour and material requirements for buildings or structures, with details for each consecutive step in the building process. This case study analyses the developments in the construction of the large mastabas of the 1st Dynasty at Saqqara. With a focus on the planning of construction in relation to the moment of the interment of the owner.

The large mud brick tombs from the 1st Dynasty were built on a pristine location at the escarpment overlooking the new capital Memphis. Building on this location introduced some disadvantages: visibility asked for a larger structure, distance effected transport. We may conclude that besides the raised costs, (much) more time for construction was needed. However, location and prominent visibility clearly outweighed the drawbacks.

The professional builders had to find a solution for these consequences. We may assume that the wish to see one's tomb ready with one's own eyes was still paramount. The question for a finished tomb 'by life' was probably the strongest driver behind the developments in the construction of large tombs. Already in the reign of Den a practical solution was found, through the construction of a subterranean corridor which provided access to the burial chamber while the tomb was (probably completely) finished. However, even the first built mastabas already show signs of a phased construction that allows early preparations of the tomb before interment.

Three mastabas will be examined in this study. Mastaba M3357 (reign Hor-Aha) will be studied on the aspect of logistics and the possibilities of maximal preparation of construction before interment of the body. M3035 (reign Den)

will be studied on the effects of the external entrance to the burial chamber on the construction time. Then, mastaba M3038 (reign Adjib) will be studied for its phased construction, also in relation to interment necessities. By comparing the results, it is possible to quantify the effects of these developments in tomb construction and their consequences in the planning of construction.

POSTER

OWNBY Mary¹ & MACZYŃSKA Agnieszka²

Pottery Technology and Imports from Tell el-Farkha.

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² Poznan Archaeological Museum, Poznan, Poland

Presenting author: Mary Ownby (maryownby@email.arizona.edu)

The site of Tell el-Farkha in the eastern Nile Delta has been shown through recent excavations to be a significant settlement of the Predynastic period. Its location gave this site a unique opportunity to interact with the Upper Egyptian culture and the Early Bronze Age cultures of the Levant. The ceramics found at the site have provided information related to this interaction, and insight into early pottery technology.

Petrographic analysis of pottery from Tell el-Farkha aimed to examine the manufacturing process of local and non-local Egyptian ceramics, in addition to investigating unusual imported fabrics. Examination of pottery through petrographic analysis allows the clay and inclusions to be characterized, along with revealing information on raw materials selection, manipulation, and general firing temperatures. The ability to reconstruct a *chaîne opératoire* for Predynastic pottery is notable for this project. Further, the variety of Marl clay vessels found at the site reveals the contacts Tell el-Farkha had with Upper Egyptian settlements. Both in technology and pottery types, the information from Tell el-Farkha can be compared to petrographic analyses of pottery from Tell Iswid and the site of Douch in the Kharga Oasis to provide a broader perspective on early pottery production and movement in Predynastic Egypt.

Analysis of a few unusual fabrics from Tell el-Farkha through petrography also enabled a clearer understanding of Levantine imports coming to Egypt in this early period. While typological and ceramic fabric analysis had suggested imported pottery derived mostly from the southern Levant, petrography indicated a few vessels were from northern Lebanon. These may have reached the site through indirect trade or accompanying cedar that seems to have been brought to Egypt in the Predynastic period as well. Other investigated imported ceramic fragments confirm the utilization of Moza clays for pottery brought to Tell el-Farkha, and another possible southern Levantine ceramic fabric. Together, the data confirms the impression that the site played a crucial role in the early connections between Egypt and the Levant.

POSTER

PAWLIKOWSKI Maciej¹, SŁOWIOCZEK Edyta¹

Mineralogical investigation of sorption of charcoal from Archaeological site Tel el-Farkha, Nile Delta (Egypt).

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Presenting author: Maciej Pawlikowski (mpawlik@agh.edu.pl)

This paper presents a putative mechanism of metal sorption by reduced carbon. The sorption of carbon discovered in archaeological campfires at the Tel El Farkha site in the Nile Delta was tested. It was found that the primary material burned in the tested fireplaces was straw, leading to the creation – among other elements – of black carbon, characterized by sorptive phenomenon. Ca, Mg, Na, Fe, P, Cu etc. were discovered in the micromolecular soot structures, which may suggest the presence of copper objects buried near the campfires. Confirmation of this assumption in further archaeological work will enable treating old coal research as a method for locating objects made of certain metals.

POSTER

PAWLIKOWSKI Maciej¹, SZYMANOWICZ Marcin²

An importance of Neolithic-Early Dynastic-the end of Old Kingdom transition in Ancient Egypt. Geological evidences of climatic oscillations.

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Due to the great importance of the transition from the Neolithic to the Early Dynastic, and to the end of the Old Kingdom, the future geoarchaeological survey in Nile Delta will be discussed. The proposed route leads across geziras localized in the Nile Delta. One can find geological profiles and archaeological objects there, which provide documentation of climatic phenomenon between 4 000 and 2 200 B.C. Climatic oscillations are regarded as the main reason for societal changes in North-Eastern Africa and the Near East.

One of the most important factors of human activity is climate. Geological investigation conducted in last 35 years suggest the presence of a climatic swing. It can be observed in the reduction of Moeris Lake's size, lower Nile floods etc. These factors suggest that there was a short dry climatic phase in that period, which led to desertification and reduction of rivers. It was also a reason for changes in human activity – active large-scale migration, new economy, agriculture (irrigation).

The latest research also confirmed that the end of Old Kingdom in Egypt should be connected with the period of heavy rainfalls and higher Nile floods. This has a great impact on agriculture and living conditions, and caused further changes in settlement and economy. Because of all these elements, the determination of details of the mentioned climatic phenomenon is absolutely fundamental to understand past human activity, which led to the transition between Neolithic and Early Dynastic in Egypt and all the Near East, and the end of the Old Kingdom in Egypt. Examination of this period is possible using geological and archaeological data and methods. The most interesting and important places for such investigation are located at geziras in Nile Delta.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

PIERI Anna¹ & ANTOINE Daniel²

Dwarfism in Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt: new evidences from the Elite cemetery HK 6, Hierakonpolis.

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Presenting author: Anna Pieri (anna.pieri@gmail.com)

Several types of growth disorders are known today and they can be divided between disproportionate, which affect the limbs and the trunk to varying degrees, and proportionate dwarfism where the whole body is involved and remains small. Achondroplasia is the most common type of disproportionate dwarfism. Symptoms are pronounced shortness of stature, the abnormal size of the head and severe shortening of the limbs while the trunk is almost of normal length. In most cases the upper jaw protrudes and the chin is very pointed while the bridge of the nose is flattened and the forehead is flat and high. Other features associated with this disorder are excessive lower spinal curvature, a prominent buttocks and a protuberant abdomen.

A large number of cases of dwarfism are known from Ancient Egypt, in the form of tomb paintings, statues or as human remains. Dwarf figurines are known from Predynastic, but their prominence amongst Early Dynastic temple votives suggests that they often occupy a significant position in society or ritual. Even if the ancient artists probably could not differentiate between the different types of dwarfism, the representations replicate the features with such fidelity that, in most cases, it is possible to identify the pathology.

The different types of this condition can in fact be identified in the iconography. Notably, the Predynastic and early dynastic images mainly represent disproportionate dwarfs, while other types can be recognised in representations dating to the Middle and New Kingdom.

Skeletal remains, being the most objective evidence of the existence of this genetic condition, are of great value. Unfortunately, the skeletons of only very few of the dwarfs reported from around the Abydos Royal tombs and other sites have been preserved. Thus, the two dwarfs recently discovered in the Elite cemetery HK6 at Hierakonpolis are important new additions to the record and provide the opportunity for inter and intra-site comparisons.

Both these dwarfs presented almost all of the features typical of achondroplasia, however the careful observation revealed some difference in the morphology of the bones, which might suggest a peculiar variation of this disorder. This variation is known only in another individual, dated to the Badarian period, while the skeletal remains from the 1st Dynasty Abydos royal tombs and Saqqara appear to be affected by the typical form of achondroplasia.

The presence of two individuals, both possibly affected by the same variation of common dwarfism, both from the same cemetery and dating to about the same time, opens several questions about their relationship to one another and allows us to explore further the role that such individuals had in the Predynastic society.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

ROCHE Aurélie¹

From iconography to writing: which kinship?

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One of the many distinctive features of Predynastic and Early Dynastic Egypt is the fast development of two communication systems, i.e. iconography and writing. Iconography has been present from the dawn of the Predynastic period, while writing appeared only later: the first evidence of writing dates back to the Naqada IIIa2 and is attested on the tags and vessels from Tomb U-j at Abydos.

The fascinating subject of the genesis of writing is already displayed in a lot of literature, within which themes such as the context, meaning, purpose and development of writing are well studied. In this paper, I intend to reassess these questions while integrating another visual language: iconography. The addition of this medium to the body of research will definitely highlight kinship between iconography and writing, as well as reveal the origins of Egyptian writing with a new perspective.

Using a comparative approach, this presentation will focus on three main issues: forms, contexts and purposes of hieroglyphic writing in its early stages. Firstly, I will concentrate on the visual criteria which enable us to differentiate between iconic figures and the first written signs, as well as between pictorial representations and combinations of written scripts. The question of the boundary between iconography and writing will be discussed. I will also examine whether the earliest written signs were chosen partly within the repertoire of pictorial patterns. Which kinds of motifs were absent from the early iconography and were created on purpose for the birth of writing?

Secondly, this paper will compare the archaeological and social contexts of the two modes of communication and display. Both late iconography and early writing were apparently related to kingship, but until which level? I will examine the different archaeological contexts and items to which the pictorial and written representations were applied. I will discuss if iconographic pieces and written material were produced for the same people, and likewise if both the work of drawers and scribes was done by the same people.

Thirdly, I will focus on the delicate question of the purpose of the earliest Egyptian writing. Authors usually propose two motivations for the invention of

writing, namely administrative and ideological functions. These two purposes will be re-examined while they are put in perspective with the aims of iconography: did these two visual communication systems have the same goals? Did the written system partly replace or complete the iconographic functions?

Finally, the origins of writing will need to be set into a larger historical context, including the emergence of complex societies, centralised power and administration, and the growth of mass production, in order to better understand why hieroglyphic writing was invented in the first place.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

ROSIŃSKA-BALIK Karolina¹

Ancient Building Technology on the Threshold of the Dynastic Egypt.

¹Jagiellonian University, Cracow, Poland

Presenting author: Karolina Rosinska-Balik (k.rosinska.balik@gmail.com)

The paper aims to characterize the development of architecture in the Nile Delta at the moment of Egyptian unification. The attempt will be made on the basis of archaeological material interpretation. Excavation results clearly point to the fact that, in the period crucial for the later Lower and Upper kingdoms, Egyptian building art was deeply transformed, which was visible in the form of constructed architectural layouts. Moreover, the execution manner of sometimes quite spacious structures was evolving, and thus, building materials were exchanged and adjusted to satisfy new needs. Therefore, the applicaiton of mud bricks is worthy of deeper investigation.

The question one should try to answer is the time and place of the building material's origin. It is especially important that questions of the Naqadian descent of mud bricks be strongly verified. Another question about this kind of matter is its economy of manufacturing. This extremely common material must have been easy and quick to prepare but to what extent? How much workload does it require? What amount of ingredients does it need? How long does it take to prepare a batch of bricks ready to use in the building process? Finally, what area is necessary to produce and prepare sufficient amount of bricks?

ORAL COMMUNICATION

ROWLAND Joanne ¹

Times of change: investigating change in the late 3rd/early 4th millennium BCE through the burials at Kafr Hassan Dawood, Eastern Nile Delta.

¹ Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

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The Late Predynastic to Early Dynastic (3,400-2,750 BC) cemetery at Kafr Hassan Dawood (KHD) is located in the region of the Wadi Tumilat, in the Eastern Nile Delta. It remains the largest excavated cemetery for this period within the Nile Delta, with 752 graves excavated up until 1999. The chronological phasing has been established on the basis of the ceramics, and it appears to confirm that the cemetery was being used possibly as early as NIIC, with the majority of the burials interred between NIIIA1 and NIID1.

Comparative analysis of the burials, the graves, the associated grave provisions, and the spatial distribution of the graves within the cemetery at KHD has previously shown that there are some regional characteristics that differ to those seen in other cemeteries within reasonably close geographical proximity, e.g. Kufur Nigm and Minshat Abu Omar. It is here suggested that one of the main explanations for this might well be found in the specific geographical location of KHD within the region of the Wadi Tumilat, a location that places KHD within a different network of sites to the dense cluster of communities within the eastern and north-eastern Nile Delta. KHD is in a very favourable location in terms of communications with other communities living, travelling and working across the Sinai and Nile Delta, as well as into the Nile Valley, Levant, Red Sea coast, Fayum, eastern Desert and wider near East. It is this specific location along the Wadi Tumilat that might very well also account for the unusually high frequency of copper objects that are found in the burials at KHD, including copper awls, needles, fishing hooks, chisels, adzes, harpoons and mirrors.

This contribution will present the chronological phasing for the site of KHD and the results of the fresh analysis that now implement this temporal phasing to better investigate changes over time within the community, as reflected through the cemetery. The wider analysis seeks to bring a new and enhanced understanding as to why the site was founded in this location, how and in what

way the community underwent processes of change through time, and why the prosperity of the community may have declined, causing the site to fall out of use. Within this, and during the presentation, the evidence as to how the site fits within regional and more distant networks of communication and exchange will be examined, as will the question of whether or not the site was ever exploited by individuals not indigenous to the region.

POSTER

STÄHLE Wolfram¹

Situation, orientation and interpretation of early dynastic private stelae of Umm el-Qaab/Abydos.

¹ Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-Universität Bonn, Germany

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We can count ourselves lucky that G. Martin published a catalogue of the corpus of the early dynastic private funerary stelae of Umm el-Qaab to present these sorts of objects to other researchers, but there are still many questions remaining. For example, the original setting and orientation of these stelae is until now an unsolved problem. While Dreyer, Junker and Ricke reconstructed them as attached to the assumed superstructures of the subsidiary tombs, Flinders Petrie and Scharff supposed they were free-standing. Flinders Petrie's observation that all objects show traces of weathering all around and are therefore divided into a foot (which remained in the earth) and an above-ground body, is a very strong argument.

The exact location of all stelae in their funerary complex is unfortunately very seldom published in the old records, and only a few objects are assigned to several subsidiary chambers. Because of this, it is impossible to use the private stelae for studies about social or functional segregation in the complexes on the basis of titles or inscriptions. An approach to solving this problem was conducted as the author's MA-Thesis by analysing the weathering-traces on the private stelae in the Djer-complex at Umm el-Qaab, which derive from the excavation of the German Archaeological Institute of Cairo. The most prominent features are wind corrosion/Windschliff, and wash-outs/Auswaschungen, besides other traces of weathering.

The analysis showed that the stelae were aligned with their inscription or image on the king's chamber, and not, as often assumed, to the wadi or the edge of the cultivated land. Therefore the king has to be addressed as the receiver of information, produced by the stelae, less probably some sort of priest, ba or god. Furthermore, it can be assumed that the king is also the donator of the stelae, because they only exist in the direct vicinity of the king's tomb.

As a consequence, a new interpretation of the function of the private stelae of Umm el-Qaab has to be undertaken other than the classical theories which interpret these stelae as markers for offering places or sole grave-markers. In my

opinion, they are signs of a developed assumption of the afterlife of the king, and are erected by him to guide his way to his eternal supply. In the Naqada-III-period the inventory consisted of huge amounts of goods and food, but the Egyptians seemed to have realized, that this amount will also be consumed sometime in eternity. Therefore they served the king perhaps not only as a rich assemblage of grave goods, but may represent any sort of provision in the form of subsidiary burials of food producers and craftsmen. Perhaps here we see a new dimension of afterlife supplies than in previous eras, and therefore, to keep the track, the king had to erect information signs in the form of early dynastic funerary stelae in Umm el-Qaab.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

TAKAMIYA Izumi H.¹

Reconsideration on the development of specialization in Predynastic Egypt: A recent view from Hierakonpolis.

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Presenting author: Izumi H. Takamiya (izumi@fiveminutes.co.jp)

The development of specialization in Predynastic Egypt has been discussed by many scholars since the last century, and has become a special subject of this international conference since “Egypt at its Origin 2” in 2005. During this decade in particular, archaeological excavations and material studies continuously provided abundant new information on the subject.

The author offered a general hypothesis on the development of specialization in the Nile Valley at the first Origins conference in 2002, and in its proceedings, but more recent discoveries make it necessary to reconsider the subject and the hypotheses, as several authors have suggested.

According to recent progress in data accumulation and archaeological thinking, the previous views on the development of specialization may be reconsidered from several aspects. Firstly, recent studies have provided information about materials which had not been dealt with before such as textiles and inscriptions, as well as new details concerning materials previously considered. Secondly, advanced chronological studies offer more accurate dates by which to investigate the process of development of specialization more closely. Thirdly, recent archaeological excavations and material studies have shed new light on regional variations in the development process. Fourthly, archaeological studies all over the world have introduced new concepts for understanding specialization in ancient times, in which specialization is considered as an aspect more deeply embedded in society than held in previous archaeological theory.

Some of the most significant data for the subject has recently been obtained from Hierakonpolis, which was one of the largest settlements and local centers during the period under concern. Moreover, on-going excavations at the HK6 cemetery suggest the existence of a chiefdom-level society by the end of Naqada I or early Naqada II, earlier than formerly assumed, and this may have a great influence for understanding the development process of specialization.

In this presentation, the development process of specialization, including the previous hypothesis, is reconsidered mainly on the ground of the author’s excavations and material studies at Hierakonpolis.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

TALLET Pierre¹

The Naqadian Inscriptions of Wadi Ameyra - South Sinai.

¹ Université Paris IV-Sorbonne, France

Presenting author: Pierre Tallet (pierre.tallet@wanadoo.fr)

In 2012 the yearly survey lead by the University of Paris Sorbonne and the Ifao to the South of Sinai Peninsula allowed the discovery of a new archeological site at Wadi Ameyra. That site stands out for its many Naqadian rocks inscriptions and drawings that are the testimonies of expeditions sent to that place by Egyptian kings fom the end of Predynastic and Ealy Dynastic periods. The site also gives original material on that key period of Egyptian history.

POSTER

TAMORRI Veronica¹

New perspectives on practices of funerary body manipulation in Predynastic Egypt.

¹Durham University, United Kingdom

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Evidence of the use of funerary body manipulations such as bone disarticulation, incision and removal, has come to light at several cemeteries dating to the Predynastic and Early Dynastic periods in Egypt (e.g. Adaima, Naqada and Hierakonpolis). Such practices are commonly regarded as isolated events and interpreted as sporadic acts of cannibalism, human sacrifice, or the result of tomb looting. On the contrary, the consistency of the evidence so far collected for my research and the homogeneous distribution of cases of funerary body manipulation throughout Egypt, would suggest that these were deliberate and purposeful practices, carried out during rituals related to the funerary sphere.

Within this framework, the purpose of this poster is to present the preliminary results of my on-going research and to answer questions concerning the identity of the subjects selected for these practices; the overall character of these funerals (e.g. type and quantity of grave goods, location within the cemetery, tomb architectural features); the frequency of the use of funerary body manipulation at sites such as el-Amrah, Gerzah and Naqada. A further aim of this poster is to illustrate the interpretative framework I built for my research, by presenting selected case studies of funerary body manipulation from the above-mentioned sites.

POSTER

TASSIE Geoffrey¹, ROWLAND Joanne M.², HASSAN Fekri A.³ & VAN WETERING Joris⁴

More Potmarks from the Protodynastic to Early Dynastic site of Kafr Hassan Dawood, Wadi Tumilat, East Nile Delta, Egypt.

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⁴*Naqada Project*

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Excavations at the site of Kafr Hassan Dawood (KHD) were first undertaken in 1989, following local land reclamation planning. Excavation of the site was carried out under the directorship of Mohammed Salem el-Hangouri, former Director of the SCA Suez Canal Zone. A total of 920 graves were excavated before the project was interrupted in May 1995 for re-evaluation by Prof. Fekri A. Hassan (UCL) following a visit to the site at the request of Prof. Abdel-Helim El-Nour El-Din, the then Secretary General of the SCA. The site then continued to be excavated under the directorship of F. A. Hassan until 1999, with a total of 1069 graves being discovered. The majority of the site archive is now held by Prof. F. A. Hassan and is presently being analysed by the joint UCL/SCA mission who hope to complete their work at the site and also in the *Zagazig Magazine*. At *Origines 2* the potmarks from the 1995-1999 seasons were presented, and at *Origines 3* a preliminary presentation was made on the potmarks from the 1989-1995 seasons during the *Potmarks Workshop*. Over the last few years the authors have had the opportunity to examine the SCA records in more detail and thus gain a fuller insight into the potmarks at the site. The total corpus of potmarks from KHD is now ca. 200, including two *serekhs*.

As much more contextual and chronological data is now available, the analysis of the 1989-1995 KHD potmarks will be added to the previous analysis to examine internal distribution of the potmarks in relation to the distribution of wealth / status within the cemetery, as well as their relation to other potmarks from cemeteries both within a regional - Lower Egyptian perspective, and a national - Egyptian perspective. In this work the potmarks are initially presented as scaled drawings before being located into a lexicon of the various categories of potmarks found at KHD.

It is essential that the differences between the various types of potmarks are explored, such as those done prior to firing versus those done after firing, signs that are incised and those applied with ink, signs that may be regarded as writing, whereas some appear to be accounting marks and others just symbols. Since Edwin van den Brink first created a national corpus of Protodynastic to Early Dynastic potmarks, several other authors have contributed to this area of study (i.e. Bréand at Adaïma; Jucha at Tell el-Farkha; Kroeper at Minshat Abu Omar; Mawdsley at Tarkhan). This corpus of potmarks from KHD represents a valuable addition to the growing number of early signs with which to illuminate the meanings of the various categories of potmarks.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

TRISTANT Yann¹

The 1st Dynasty funerary boats of Abu Rawash.

¹ Macquarie University, Sydney, Australia & Institut français d'archéologie orientale, Cairo, Egypt

Presenting author: Yann Tristant (yann.tristant@mq.edu.au)

The site of Abu Rawash is located at the northern edge of the great Egyptian necropolis of Memphis, about 8 km northwest of the Giza Plateau. Since 2008, the Institut français d'archéologie orientale (IFAO, Cairo, Egypt) has undertaken, in collaboration with Macquarie University (Sydney, Australia), the study of the Cemetery M at Abu Rawash and its large mud-brick mastabas assigned to the elite of the 1st Dynasty. This program aims to re-excavate the monuments partially cleared by Pierre Montet in the years 1913-1914, in order to gather new information about the funerary architecture of the period and the Early Dynastic Memphite society at the dawn of Pharaonic civilization.

During the 2012 and 2013 seasons, the team uncovered the remains of wooden boats deposited at the north of four different mastabas. The boats were designed according to the technique of lacing ligatures. Similar discoveries were made before 1950 in the Early Dynastic cemeteries of Saqqara and Helwan. Unfortunately, the remains of those boats have not been preserved and documentation produced at the time is unsatisfactory by modern standards. Between 1990 and 2000, 14 large boats excavated at Abydos completed the corpus of Early Dynastic boats. However their proposed dates, between 1st and 2nd Dynasty, could not be confirmed by either stratigraphy or absolute dating.

Based on material associated, stratigraphy and more importantly a set of radiocarbon dating, the boats of Abu Rawash are currently believed to be the oldest boats ever found in Egypt. After nearly 5,000 years it is not easy to identify the reason for the presence of these boats in the graves. Were the boats parts of the funerary equipment of the elite at that time? Symbols of power? Were they used for transportation of the deceased to their graves? Were they objects of prestige that the dead wanted to take with them in the afterlife?

Transported to the conservation laboratory of the Grand Egyptian Museum (GEM) at Giza, the boats will be exhibited soon in the galleries of the future museum. Their study will provide a better understanding of shipbuilding techniques in the early periods of Egyptian history and its development over the 400 years before the famous boat of Khufu (c. 2550 BC).

POSTER

UGLIANO Federica¹

Body adornment and construction of personhood: artefacts from Fondazione Museo delle Antichità Egizie (Turin, Italy) and the Italian contribution to the study of Predynastic Egypt.

¹ Università degli Studi di Trento, Italy

Presenting author: Federica Ugliano (federica.ugliano@tiscali.it)

The value and significance of body adornment in Predynastic Egypt might be intended as a reflex of a “lost language” for the construction of personal and social identities. The main purpose of this poster, as a part of my PhD research, is to link different categories of artefacts concerning body adornment as a means of social construction of identity in order to create a single and comprehensive narrative of Predynastic customs.

Starting from the collection stored within the Turin Egyptian Museum (now Fondazione Museo delle Antichità Egizie di Torino), the author intends to reassess the value of the elements of body, personal care or decorative elements as cosmetic palettes, bracelets, beads, (hair)pins, combs, “amulets” or mace heads among the more general discussions about the emergence of the state and the pharaonic civilisation and the definition of the “original Egyptian” together with the main themes of ethnicity, development of complex societies and intramural competitions for supremacy.

The analysis of artefacts from large archaeological collections is frequently related to the definition of their chronological and typological horizons, without connecting the objects themselves to broader issues and discussions. This fact, mainly due to the lack or inadequacy of excavation data and records, seems to confine the study to single classes of archaeological materials, without looking for connections and interrelations among the different classes of artefacts.

The research starts from the Predynastic collection mainly acquired by the Italian Egyptologist Ernesto Schiaparelli (1856-1928), leader of M.A.I. (Missione Archeologica Italiana) throughout archaeological investigations and purchases on the antiquarian market. As the director of the Turin Museum, he was mainly concerned with the lack of artefacts dated to the beginning of the Egyptian history and great attention was paid in acquiring objects that could fill the gap in the archaeological record. Schiaparelli never extensively published the results of his excavation in Predynastic sites as Gebelein and Qau el-Kebir/Hammamija, and a great part of the excavation records are still unedited.

The archaeological documentation (notes, plans, drawings and historical photographs) is stored within Archivio di Stato di Torino (State Archive of Turin), and partly at Soprintendenza per i Beni Archeologici del Piemonte e del Museo Antichità Egizie and Giovanni Marro's anthropological collection, while all the artefacts are on display or kept in the Turin Museum.

Thanks to the analysis of all the available documentation, it can now be possible to define the history of excavations, the results, and the Italian contribution to the study of the Predynastic period.

POSTER

VAN WETERING Joris¹

The cemeteries of Nubt, Naqada region, Upper Egypt.

¹Naqada Project

Presenting author: Joris van Wetering (jflvwetering@gmail.com)

The settlement and cemeteries at Nubt in the Naqada region have been at the foreground of state formation interpretation since their discovery by W. M. F. Petrie in 1894. Between 1978 and 1981 F. A. Hassan led the Washington State University *Predynastic of Naqada* Project, investigating the site, focusing primarily on the settlement zone at South Town but also undertaking a survey of the N East and N West cemeteries.

To better understand the site as a whole, the funerary development at the different cemeteries of Nubt is discussed: N East, N West, N South, N North, G and T (taking into account the rather incomplete nature of our information). Petrie's published information and his notebooks, as well as the work by Baumgartel, Payne, Bard and other researchers is analysed.

The focus of this study is to better understand the presence of several smaller, isolated cemeteries. This will be complemented by examining the establishment of the main cemeteries (N East and N West) during the Naqada I phase and their expansion during the Naqada II phase, particularly their horizontal spread will be analysed. 'Special' cemeteries: N South, G and T, were established during the Naqada II phase, whereas it seems possible that N West was established during the Naqada I as a 'special' cemetery separated from the main cemetery at N East. To understand if these cemeteries can be linked to a functional grouping (based on function of the tomb owner in the community) or to a kinship grouping (based on family ties), the known graves have been examined. The identification of cemetery T as a burial area of the rulers of the Naqada polity centred on Nubt is also discussed within the seemingly specific development of 'special' cemeteries at Nubt. The wealth distribution coupled with the temporal-spatial development of all these cemeteries will be analysed in relation to the perceived state formation development in Upper Egypt.

To understand the Nubt cemeteries within their regional context, these are compared to their nearest neighbours: cemetery B at Kom el-Bilal, just south of Nubt and the cemeteries at Zawaydah, just north of Nubt. Also the two large cemeteries, PWT.101 (south of Nubt, near modern Danfiq) and PWT.168 (north

of Nubt, possibly identical with the Lythgoe cemetery), are discussed together with the large cemeteries at Armant, Hiw and Abadiyah, which are farther away but still within the area (central Upper Egypt) that other studies have defined as being separate from Southern Upper Egypt (south of er-Rizeiqat) and northern Upper Egypt (north of Nag Hammadi).

ORAL COMMUNICATION

VANTHUYNE Bart¹

Rock circle cemeteries in the 15th and 16th Upper Egyptian nomes.

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Presenting author: Bart Vanthuyne (bart.vanthuyne@arts.kuleuven.be)

Hardly any Predynastic, Early Dynastic or early Old Kingdom sites were known in the 15th and 16th Upper Egyptian nomes before the start of the Dayr al-Barshā Project in 2002. That year a pottery survey led to the discovery of a number of 3rd - early 4th Dynasty rock circle tombs on the escarpment, north of the Wādī Nakhla. A rock circle tomb is marked by a stone outline of boulders, positioned around and over the burial container, which was generally placed directly on the bedrock. From 2009 onwards the author has been investigating this cemetery as part of his PhD research.

Besides excavating a selection of tombs, a number of surveys were also conducted to determine the size of the buried population, the cemetery size, and its chronological development. Currently the cemetery extends N-S over a distance of nearly 2,4 kilometers on the foothills of Dayr al-Barshā. Its E-W extent has not yet been completely determined as several small tombs were only recently found in the desert plain. One of the surveys also led to the discovery of the first Predynastic remains in the area.

Through the examination of satellite images, several other contemporary rock circle cemeteries were identified. One is located in Dayr Abū Hinnis, just north of Dayr al-Barshā. Here rock circle tombs have been found over a distance of 2,6 kilometres. Of interest here too is that the MSA storeroom in al-Ashmūnayn contains several black-topped Predynastic vessels, which the police confiscated from looters. They were reported to have come from Dayr Abū Hinnis.

At Nuwayrāt, satellite imagery has shown that this site is in fact far larger than previously thought. A new survey in 2013 led to the discovery of many more rock circle tombs as well as several unknown rock tombs. Tombs have now been found over a N-S distance of up to 2,6 kilometres. Early OK tombs were also found north and south of the wadi, which contains the Speos Artemidos, over a N-S distance of 1,8 kilometres.

Recent excavations in Zawīyat al-Mayyitīn by the MSA additionally turned up several pottery coffins. Other information is lacking but it should not be

surprising to find them there as well, as this site is best known for its small 3rd Dynasty step pyramid. Whereas in the past this pyramid was seen as an isolated monument, it now becomes clear that several contemporary population clusters did in fact exist at intervals along a stretch of approximately 35 kilometres in this part of Middle Egypt. Furthermore the rock circle tomb seems to have been the standard tomb type for the local population at this time period.

In the presentation an overview of the four sites with rock circle cemeteries will be given. It will be shown that in this part of Egypt, other than its unique tomb type, the burial customs continue a tradition already set out in the preceding periods. Demographic information about the buried population in Dayr al-Barshā will also be highlighted. Additionally the first predynastic evidence in Dayr al-Barshā and perhaps coming from Dayr Abū Hinnis will be presented.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

VERMEERSCH Pierre M.¹, VAN PEER Philip¹, LINSEELE Veerle², MARINOVA Elena¹, MOEYERSONS Jan²

Early and Middle Holocene Human Occupation of the Egyptian Eastern Desert: Sodmein Cave.

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The Belgian Middle Egypt Prehistoric Project of Leuven University did surveys and excavations in the Egyptian Eastern Desert, mainly along the Red Sea during the winter of 1989, 1993, 1995 and 1999. The project aimed at understanding the prehistoric occupation of that area. The survey resulted in localising several sites, of the Middle Stone Age (MSA), the Epipalaeolithic and also of the Neolithic. We will discuss the data regarding the human occupation during the Early and Middle Holocene, based mainly on the data provided by the Sodmein Cave Holocene deposits. The stratigraphy of the Sodmein cave is the main and the most important element of the sequence. It appeared that the area was apparently devoid of humans during Late Glacial Maximum (LGM) and the Earliest Holocene. With the improved climatic conditions, humans visited the area as hunter-gatherers using no ceramics from around 7.1 to 6.4 Ka calBC. Later, from 6.2 to 5.0 Ka cal BC ovicaprid herders visited the site on a regular basis. A few ceramics were introduced mainly from 5.4 ka cal BC on. After 5.0 Ka cal BC the area was nearly deserted. The data, including hearth features, lithics, belonging to the Egyptian (bi-)facial technocomplex, ceramics, botanical and faunal remains, are discussed in relation to the contemporary human occupation of the Western Desert and the Nile Valley. The stratigraphic sequence is based on field observations and a large number of ¹⁴C and AMS dates. The data will be discussed in the context of other Egyptian occupations of the same age.

ORAL COMMUNICATION

WŁODARSKA Magdalena¹

Some Remarks on the Construction Process of the Khasekhemui's Enclosure at Abydos in the light of Recent Excavations.

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Since 2000 a major focus of the field research program of the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University Expedition to Abydos has been the systematic excavation of Khasekhemui's enclosure, which relates to the architectural conservation project of the monument. Recent excavations have shown that in spite of continued use and reuse of the site in ancient times, as well as intrusive archaeological excavations of the 19th and early 20th centuries, a vast area of the original 2nd Dynasty mud floor is still preserved.

Examination of the so-called corridor defined by the double wall of the enclosure has revealed at least three levels of 2nd Dynasty activity. Excavation suggests that the top surface forms a kind of final floor, while two lower levels are related to the construction site, which apparently spread across the whole enclosure's interior as well as in its surroundings.

One of the most surprising discoveries of the last few years are numerous basin features called *makhmaras* covering a large area of the construction surfaces both intramural and extramural. All these features are related to construction activities following the manufacture of mud bricks on the site, namely making and mixing mud plaster and whitewash. The details of the stratigraphic context of these features and the two construction levels related to them allow for the partial reconstruction of the sequence of the separate tasks in the construction process of Khasekhemui's enclosure. This new evidence from Abydos may contribute considerably to our knowledge of mud brick architecture in early Egypt.