

SCAVI DI SEDEINGA (SUDAN)



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Work executed from the 7th to the 22nd of November 1964, with
a group of about eighty labourers.

Excavations were carried out in the area of the large cemetery and in the area of the West tombs.

a) The large cemetery.

Several trials excavations were executed across the ~~the~~ two "wadis" which pass through this cemetery. The trials seem to prove that the formation of the "wadis" in question is more ancient than the establishment of the cemetery, whose tombs were so disposed in three separate groups.

b) The West tombs.

This area, on which we concentrated all our attention, has been almost completely cleared on its upper surface. It seems to enclose only nine tombs.

The superstructures of these tombs were all pyramids, mostly in mud-bricks — only W T1 (excavated last year) and W T4 were made in stone-blocks. Architecturally, the pyramids were of different types; their study will be made simultaneously with the advance of the work.

The three burial-chambers partially cleared — W T3, 4 and 5, confirm that the West tombs have been completely ~~been~~ plundered.

The clearing of the upper surface of this area allows us to find some scattered stone-remains, decorated or inscribed, mostly of meroitic epoch. Among these blocks ~~we~~ let us point out:

- W T2 s2 a very beautiful lintel in sandstone, decorated in relief (the winged sun-disc flanked by two "uraei") and ~~decorated~~ inscribed with seven long horizontal lines of meroitic text.
- W T2 s6 right side of another lintel in sandstone, of the same type than W T2 s2, but of different style, inscribed with the end of three horizontal lines of meroitic inscription.
- W T2 s7.... bloc in sandstone, with seven horizontal lines of text. Meroitic.
- W T6 s1.... a very beautiful altar of sandstone, with spout. The field sculptured. Uninscribed. It could date back to the XXVth Dyn.

— W T7 sl....Altar with spout. Sandstone. Decorated field. One line of meroitic inscription around the border.

It is too early to draw a conclusion about ~~in~~ the date, and the kinships mentioned in the inscriptions; in fact, the blocks above mentioned, ~~now~~ covered with saltpetre, must still go through a long treatment before we can draw and copy them.

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