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**Writing, Editing, and/or
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What: Copyedit of a thesis on
Nubian archaeology (excerpt) in
MS Word “track-changes” format
to show edits in progress.

My Role: Copyeditor

Artifacts, Interests, and Agencies: - the Politics of ~~Sudan~~-Archaeology in Sudan

May 8, 2008

2. Towards a Sudanese archaeology

2.1. Introduction

In this chapter I explore how archaeology was institutionalized in Sudan, ~~i.e.~~that is, how it first became a bureaucratic enterprise with its own antiquities service, museum, antiquities laws, ~~full~~full-time employees, inspectors, and guards, and how, several years later the ~~founding of~~ the first department of archaeology was founded. Through a reading of official annual reports, ~~letter~~-correspondences, and personal memoirs,¹ I identify what in the following sections shall term *fields of interests*, which are particularly relevant ~~for~~ to the problem under discussion. Besides ~~from~~-giving a chronological account ~~on~~of the institutionalization of archaeology in Sudan, the material ~~is~~will functioning as a means for reconstructing the different relations — the *inter* — [AQ: there is no noun “inter” in English according to my dictionaries; if you are introducing it as a coinage, you need to say so and give a more detailed definition.] between and among agencies and artifacts. I see such an identification of interests as a crucial basis for further discussions on how the praxis of archaeology was not only ~~was~~-influenced by, but also affected, the sociopolitical milieu within which the institutionalization took place — a task ~~which~~that I explore further in the following chapter.

I divide the institutionalization of archaeology into three phases, constructed analytically but still grounded in a real process. The first is a preliminary phase during which Sudan is

known to the surrounding world through reports from travelers and early archaeologists, provoking ~~the~~ curiosity ~~for of the~~ archaeologists ~~arriving who arrived~~ later. The British-Egyptian conquest of the country in 1898 marks the starting point for the second phase, when archaeology became institutionalized as a spare-time activity ~~which that~~, several years later, developed into full time positions. It is this second phase ~~which that~~ forms the core of the chapter, using the two others to create an overall framework of the process showing tendencies [\[AQ: what sort of tendencies?\]](#). ~~Phase III~~ [The third phase](#), beginning by the end of the 1940s, is characterized by ‘~~Sudanization~~’ [“Sudanization”](#) — a process of handing over the service to the Sudanese themselves. Looking at these phases as a *process*, rather than ~~as~~ strictly defined, I do not intend to identify ~~an~~ absolute time spans for them. Consequently, empirical finds in phase II include material from the time after ~~the~~ Sudanization began.

2.2. Phase I: Discovering Sudan

Archaeology did not become institutionalized in Sudan until a few years after the coming of ~~the~~ Anglo-Egyptian rule in 1898. However, this does not mean that remains of the country’s past were unknown to archaeologists before that time. Travelers had visited the country at least since the time of the early Greeks, who provide us with the first written accounts of the ancient monuments, long before the British made archaeology a bureaucratic enterprise.

A graffito from the sixth century B.C. [\[AQ: BCE \(with no periods\) seems to be preferred in academic writing today. Change?\]](#) in the temple of Abu Simbel is among the first evidences of European entry into Nubia.² Another early evidence is a drum with

a ~~an inscription in the~~ Greek alphabet ~~inscription~~ found at Meroe, thought to have been used in educating Meroitic children.³ From that time ~~and onward,~~s Greek adventurers followed the Egyptian army's expeditions southward,~~s~~ leaving behind descriptions of the regions south of Egypt,~~s~~ which they called "Aithiopia" — probably referring to different populations with brown "burnt" faces. Herodotus, the father of history, wrote detailed descriptions on the pyramids of Meroe about 430 B.C., even though he himself never traveled further south than Aswan. By listening to the experiences of travelers and merchants ~~coming back north~~~~returning from the region~~, he wrote a history ~~which~~~~that~~, according to William Y. Adams, "is the oldest surviving work on Nubian history or geography which makes any pretence at either comprehensiveness or objectivity".⁴ His work is still an important source in the study of the Meroitic kingdom.⁴

Later medieval Arab scholars, such as Ibn Khaldun and Maqrizi, called the area *Bilad al-Sudan* — "the land of the blacks"~~s~~ — and contributed to the knowledge of the area by accounts ~~on~~~~of~~ Nubian history and geography. During the ~~18th~~~~eighteenth~~ century,~~s~~ early travelers visited the area following the Nile south from Cairo: first the Frenchman Poncet, then the German Krump,~~s~~ and ~~finally~~, in 1772, ~~the Scotsman~~ James Bruce, ~~aiming to~~ ~~discover~~~~searching for~~ the source of the Blue Nile. Adams writes that "all of them hurried through what they considered to be the inhospitable end of the Upper Nile, and they have left us only hasty sketches of scenes along the way."⁵

In the following years, in the period known as *Turkiyya* (1821—1885), scholar-travelers started to penetrate the area south of Egypt — then for the first time called Sudan. The borders of present day Sudan ~~was~~~~were~~ to a large extent established in this period, but

~~were~~ fixed only with the Anglo-Egyptian Condominium. ~~The conquest of the area by~~ the Turkish Governor in Egypt, Mohammed Ali Pasha's ~~conquest of the area~~ in 1821 in search ~~for~~ ~~of~~ slaves and natural resources, opened up the ~~area~~ Sudan to European scholars curious about the area they ~~had learnt to know~~ knew from the classical and medieval sources. ~~The~~ Pasha's army penetrated south as far as Sennar, where they conquered the Funj kingdom and started to expand westwards.⁶ Along with the army came the French ~~man and~~ archaeologist Fredric Cailliaud, who published a two-volume work containing, among other ~~s~~ things, detailed drawings of the pyramids at Meroe; ~~and also~~ present were the amateur archaeologists George Waddington and Bernard Hanbury. In the wake of the conquest other scholars wrote about the area; among the ~~most~~ best known were Burckhardt, the Frenchman Linant de Bellefonds and, one generation later, the Englishman Hoskins [AQ: supply missing first names of scholars?]. These early scholars were characterized by antiquarian interests concentrated around the riverine north. With The Prussian Expedition of 1842–1845 directed by C. R. Lepsius, a more systematic documentation of archaeological remains began.⁷ By documenting nearly all monuments from the Egyptian border in the north ~~southwards~~ to Khartoum in the south, ~~C.R.~~ Lepsius's publication of twelve monumental volumes ~~was~~ took a large step towards a more scientific archaeology. The rapid development of Egyptological research significantly influenced ~~to a large extent~~ all research that was done in the region at that stage.

During the Mahdiyya period (1885–1898), the country was closed; and no archaeologists or travelers entered ~~the country~~ to study its archaeological remains.⁸ Mohammed Ahmed Ibn Abdallah proclaimed himself as the *Mahdi* and mobilized an army to chase the

Egyptians out of Sudan with the aim of running the country according to pure Islam.⁹

~~Doing~~ Archaeology was impossible until the coming of the Anglo-Egyptian rule.

2.2.1. Summary

The beginning of phase I can, to a large extent, be characterized as an unincorporated enterprise where studies of remains of the past ~~was~~ were not a prime interest among the Greek merchants who retold their experiences when returning from commercial travels. The same could be said about the ~~18th~~ eighteenth century travelers who, full of adventurousness, came to searching for the source of the Nile, and to looking at the area's people, ~~and not primarily~~ rather than to document ancient sites. However, as true discoverers, they were interested in what ~~came along their paths~~ they encountered and, together with the Greek and medieval scholars, they prepared the ground for the professional archeologists and amateur-archaeologists coming who came by the end of ~~the~~ phase I with the aim of studying the ancient pyramids and temples in the area. With these scholars, a clearer and explicit interest in the ancient monuments of Sudan was a fact. When archaeological research started to flourish during the Turkiyya, it was still a European enterprise operating mostly on a ~~single~~ single-person basis, ~~— distanced~~ from not involving the people living in the area they visited. Neither the praxis nor the artifacts were controlled by any law, and ~~thereby~~ hence the Europeans could conduct their work as they pleased.

2.3. Phase II: Early institutionalization

The Antiquities Service was established in Sudan in 1904 ~~associated~~ in association with the Department of Education in the new Anglo-Egyptian regime.¹⁰ During the first ~~35~~

(This is the same text as the previous section, but with all of my edits accepted.)

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I divide the institutionalization of archaeology into three phases, constructed analytically but still grounded in a real process. The first is a preliminary phase during which Sudan is known to the surrounding world through reports from travelers and early archaeologists, provoking the curiosity of archaeologists who arrived later. The British-Egyptian conquest of the country in 1898 marks the starting point for the second phase, when archaeology became institutionalized as a spare-time activity that, several years later, developed into full time positions. It is this second phase that forms the core of the chapter, using the two others to create an overall framework of the process showing tendencies. The third phase, beginning by the end of the 1940s, is characterized by “Sudanization”—a process of handing over the service to the Sudanese themselves. Looking at these phases as a *process*, rather than as strictly defined, I do not intend to identify absolute time spans for them. Consequently, empirical finds in phase II include material from the time after Sudanization began.

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